

Historic Kremlin demand for extension of democracy

Gorbachov calls for secret Soviet ballots

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, the Soviet leader, yesterday threw down the gauntlet to the many internal critics of his ambitious reform programme by demanding that it be expanded to include the introduction of secret ballots for the selection of leading officials of the ruling Communist Party.

Mr Gorbachov also took foreign observers by surprise by hinting strongly at new electoral procedures for selecting members of the Politburo and the secretariat of the Communist Party's Central Committee.

The Politburo's opinion is that further democratization should apply to the formation of the central leading bodies of the party. I think this is quite logical," he said.

In a historic speech to the long-delayed Plenum of the 307-member Central Committee, Mr Gorbachov also proposed that a special all-union conference of the party should be staged in Moscow next year — the first such gathering since 1941 — to discuss further measures for expanding democratic procedures.

Running to 130 pages on Tass, the Soviet news agency, the hard-hitting speech was being compared in importance with that delivered by Mr Khrushchev in 1956

denouncing Stalin. Mr Gorbachov was ruthless in analysing in scathing detail the severe ills which befell the Soviet Union during the Brezhnev era, which he called a period of nationwide demoralization.

Senior Western diplomats said later that the content of the speech and the decision to break with tradition and publish it instantaneously and in full were examples of Mr Gorbachov's determination to take his struggle with en-

opportunity to express their opinions on any aspect of society.

Speaking in the Kremlin to a meeting delayed because of internal opposition to Mr Gorbachov's sweeping plans for reform and for personnel changes, the 55-year old leader said that heads of the country's 15 constituent republics, its regions, cities and districts should all be elected by secret ballot, and that more than one candidate should stand for office.

persistent advice to all who are still doubting and slow."

Reporting what was regarded as the key section of the marathon address, which will be considered by delegates when the session reconvenes today, Tass said: "It was suggested that secretaries, including first secretaries, be elected by secret vote at Plenums (full meetings) of the corresponding party committees. Members of the party committee would have the right to put on the voting ticket any number of candidates."

Western Kremlin-watchers observed later that the plan would be certain to meet with resentment from many officials who would see it as a threat to comfortable lifestyles in posts which had in many instances become life-time securities. They noted that Mr Gorbachov made clear that the suggestion came from the grass roots, where he is now looking for his main support.

During the speech, the Kremlin leader also called for greater democracy in the election of local government deputies and factory managers and called for more women, young people and non-party members to be brought forward to fulfil positions of public responsibility.

Anticipating the internal criticism which the new measures are certain to provoke, Mr Gorbachov told the meeting: "The point at issue is, certainly, not any break-up of our political system... Socialism in common with permissiveness, irresponsibility, anarchy. Real democracy serves every person, protecting his political and social



Mr Gorbachov: Expecting opposition from party officials in good positions who have been accustomed to a high lifestyle.

Gorbachov's proposals: Main points

- New electoral procedures, with the possibility of secret ballots for Communist Party posts
- A special national conference to be held in 1988 to discuss economic reform and democratizing Soviet society
- A new law allowing people to pursue complaints against Communist Party officials through the courts
- Encouragement of non-Communist Party members to take a more active part in Soviet life

Details of speech, page 9

Leading article, page 17

trouced conservative critics inside the party to the broader Soviet public.

Among measures which were promised were a new criminal law which would enable citizens who felt that they had been wronged by Communist officials to pursue complaints through the courts. Mr Gorbachov also pledged new laws to support the Soviet media in its Kremlin-inspired campaign to expose corrupt and ineffectual officials.

"Evidently the time has come to begin elaborating legal acts guaranteeing openness (or *glasnost*)," the Soviet leader informed his influential audience. "These should ensure maximum openness in the activities of state and public organizations and give the working people a real

The proposals, expected to be endorsed before the meeting winds up later this week, represent one of the most radical changes in Communist Party practice since the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution. At present, officials are effectively chosen behind closed doors, and only then formally elected by a show of hands at carefully orchestrated party meetings.

"Some comrades, apparently, find it hard to understand that democratization is not just a slogan, but the essence of re-organization," Mr Gorbachov said in one of the toughest speeches he has delivered since taking power nearly two years ago. "They must change their views and habits so as not to find themselves aside from the mainstream of life. This is our

Cost of Trident drops by £546m

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

The Government yesterday prepared for a month-long assault on the defence policies of the Labour Party and the Alliance with an announcement of a £546 million real reduction in the estimated cost of the Trident missile programme.

To the delight of Conservative MPs Mr George Younger, the Secretary of State for Defence, told the Commons that the revised estimate for Trident, which the opposition parties are committed to cancelling, is £9,265 million at average 1986-87 prices.

The estimate has come down from £9,869 million last year but the £546 million real cut is arrived at after allowing for the effects of inflation and variations in the exchange rate.

Mr Younger's announcement came as it was disclosed that he is shortly to publish a Ministry of Defence study of the alternatives to Trident, which have been backed notably by the Alliance parties. It will conclude that they are inferior on operational and cost grounds.

The big revision downwards in the Trident estimate was attributed by Ministry of Defence officials last night to hard bargaining with contractors, and the ability of the ministry to "firm up" the costs as the project progresses.

Oxford high and dry

Oxford's rowing crisis remained unresolved last night. The candidates for the Boat Race crew met at lunchtime supposedly to see their president, Donald Macdonald, whose selection in preference to the American, Chris Clark, precipitated the dispute.

But Macdonald was not

there, apparently delayed en route from his home.

The crew retired for dry training with weights and a rowing ergometer. It was the second successive day they had not been on the water. Their potential reserve crew, Isis, however, had a work out

'Service as normal' at Telecom

By Tim Jones

As the British Telecom dispute hardened yesterday when more than 30,000 clerical workers started a three-day stoppage, joining their engineering colleagues who are on indefinite strike, the company claimed it was operating almost normally.

Telecom said it was continuing to give good service to its customers, in spite of local difficulties. On Monday, eight of its 6,000 exchanges had been temporarily out of service.

There was no sign yesterday of a further meeting between the two sides to settle the dispute which could result in as many as 24,000 telephones a day being put out of action. Telecom insisted that the union must accept changes in its working practices before the company can proceed with the backdated pay deal, worth an estimated seven per cent — three per cent less than the union is claiming.

The union maintained that, in spite of Telecom claims to the contrary, "serious problems" were developing.

Cancer gas tests on homes

By Richard Evans, Political Correspondent

New action to combat a naturally produced radioactive gas which increases the risk of lung cancer was announced by the Government last night.

Surveys are to be carried out in thousands of homes in Devon and Cornwall, the worst affected area in Britain, which are believed to have above average concentrations of radon gas.

Radon-222 bubbles up from the ground, particularly in

areas with igneous rock such as granite. Concentrations can build up in buildings where the gas decays into minute solid particles. If inhaled, it can be deposited on the surface of the lungs.

It has been estimated that in the United States between 10,000 and 20,000 people die each year from lung cancer brought on by radon gas.

The National Radiological Protection Board and the Committee on the Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment advised that action should be taken to reduce

Radon is a dense, invisible gas, produced by the radioactive decay of uranium in soil.

gas levels in existing homes and to limit exposure in new homes.

Mr William Waldegrave, Minister for the Environment, told MPs the Government would fund a survey to identify houses with high gas levels. However, any remedial action, which could involve replacing floors in some homes, will have to be paid for by householders in most cases.

Parliament, page 4

Howe voices concern for Waite's safety

By Nicholas Beeston

The Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, and the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, were greatly concerned yesterday about the safety and whereabouts of Mr Terry Waite, amid persistent rumours from Beirut that the Archbishop's envoy has become the latest victim of the scourge of kidnapping that he has worked so hard to combat.

The British Ambassador to Lebanon, Mr John Gray, and his defence attaché made a perilous journey into Muslim west Beirut under heavy guard for talks about Mr Waite's disappearance with the Lebanese Prime Minister, Mr Rashid Karami, the House Speaker, Mr Hussein Hussein, and a representative of the Druze Muslim militia.

The force, headed by Mr Walid Jumblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party, kept Mr Waite under protective armed guard until he went underground eight days ago for talks with the kidnappers of Western hostages, believed to be members of the Iranian-backed Islamic Jihad organization.

"Mr Gray returned to Christian east Beirut, but had no fresh news about Mr Waite," a Foreign Office spokesman said, who added that the embassy was holding urgent contacts with a number of Lebanese Muslim leaders about the missing envoy.

Earlier, Sir Geoffrey said he was very worried about the absence of news and pointed out that Mr Waite was working in circumstances "which are not free from danger." He refused to comment about allegations that the hostage negotiator was being held against his will.

Dr Runcie in a brief statement said he was "very concerned for Terry Waite's safety," but emphasized that Islamic leaders had promised to provide all possible security measures. He said his envoy had been prepared to "put himself at risk," but said the situation was too delicate to comment about.

Mr Waite's mother, Mrs Lena Waite, of Lynton, Cheshire, told reporters: "It's been worse than normal. We have not heard from him for a week

Dangerous mission 7
Leading article 17

— it's not like Terry, he always rings."

Mr Waite's wife, Frances, who lives at their home in South-East London, remained silent about his disappearance, but neighbours noted she appeared very nervous.

In a statement last night, Lambeth Palace said there was still no evidence that its negotiator was being held against his will. The last report of his welfare was received on Monday afternoon via "trusted contacts" in Lebanon, but the same contacts reached yesterday could not shed any more light on his fate.

However, sources in Beirut have indicated that Mr Jumblatt, who feels responsibility for Mr Waite's safety, is privately very worried about his welfare.

Two news reports from Beirut in the past two days suggested that Mr Waite was being held against his will, possibly by Shia Muslim fundamentalists linked to the Iranian-backed Hezbollah

Continued on page 20, col 3

Thatcher accused of satellite 'frenzy'

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour Leader, last night accused the Government of taking "frenzied" action to prevent disclosure of information on the Zircan spy satellite project over the previous four days after a "casual" failure to act over the previous four months.

In noisy Commons exchanges he was supported by Labour's trade spokesman, Mr Robin Cook, who alleged that among the papers taken from the home of *New Statesman* journalist Mr Duncan Campbell by police was correspondence from a senior minister who had indicated his willingness to hold discussions with Mr Campbell and to appear in his planned BBC series on secrecy, the key programme which was cancelled after Government representations.

Mr Cook did not name the minister and there was little alarm in Whitehall last night about his allegation. Government sources believe that any minister who had been in contact with Mr Campbell would have been indicating his willingness to go on the programme to put a counter point of view.

The Question Time exchanges came before MPs began last night's debate on a Government motion supporting the Speaker's decision to prevent the film on the Zircan project being shown in the precincts of Westminster.

Mr Kinnock said that Mrs Margaret Thatcher's previous answers showed that the Government had known of the potential risk to national security since last October, when it learned that Mr Campbell was planning to include details of the Zircan project in the programme.

Parliament, page 4

threatening newspaper editors and the searching of the *New Statesman* offices by police.

When Mr Kinnock suggested scornfully that Mrs Thatcher seemed to think a chat with the BBC was a sufficient safeguard for national security there were angry protests from the Conservative benches, where MPs shouted about Mr Kinnock's contacts with the defence during the Peter Wright spy case in Australia.

The Prime Minister said that she was advised that, following the BBC's decision not to show the film, no injunction could be obtained against the *New Statesman* until there was evidence that the magazine intended to publish the classified material and urged Mr Kinnock to direct his strictures against Mr Campbell and the magazine.

She thought those outside the Commons would be very critical of those who used national defence secrets for "their own personal gain".

Guinness prosecutions 'under consideration'

By Lawrence Lever

The office of the Director of Public Prosecutions is believed to be considering whether to bring criminal prosecutions against individuals involved in the Guinness affair.

The DPP is being kept closely informed with developments by the Department of Trade and Industry, which appointed the inspectors to investigate Guinness. The DTI has passed on evidence to the DPP on possible criminal offences.

The DTI yesterday refused to comment, but Mr Michael Howard, the minister responsible for the investigation, has already said that any evidence of criminal activity would be relayed to the DPP.

The DPP has the power to

initiate criminal proceedings before the inspectors finish their report.

The Government is under strong pressure to come up with a criminal prosecution from the Guinness affair. The DTI investigation has been seized upon by the Opposition as evidence of widespread City fraud and has led to calls to abandon the system of self-regulation, which the new Financial Services Act would create.

The investigation has so far unearthed evidence of a multi-million share support operation designed to boost Guinness's share price and thus its chances of winning control of Distillers, the Scottish drinks group. In some cases Guinness paid third parties for this support.

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INSIDE Anderton in peace accord

The dispute between Mr James Anderton and the Greater Manchester police authority was officially ended at a Home Office meeting. The chief constable agreed to confer with the authority chairman before making any future controversial statements. The two men also agreed to meet regularly to maintain a "good and harmonious" working relationship.

Aquino threat

President Corason Aquino threatened severe action against 300 to 400 rebellious Philippine troops as the most widespread insurrection yet against her was broken up.

Nixon's view

Former President Richard Nixon describes Lord Stockton (Harold Macmillan) as the right man in the right place at the right time.

IN PART 2

£900m takeoff

British Airways is valued at £900 million under the terms of the share issue. Strong overseas demand is being forecast for shares.

CBI optimism

The latest Confederation of British Industry quarterly survey of manufacturing industry reveals business optimism at its best level in 18 months, fuelled by improved order books.

China stake

China's state investment bank, Citic, is taking a 12½ per cent stake in the Hong Kong airline Cathay Pacific, at a cost of £165 million.

Ski upset

Against the season's form, Austria, in the shape of Bernhard Gstrein, won the first race in the world slalom championships at Crans Montana, the slalom combination.

Portfolio

● The Times Portfolio Gold daily competition prize of £4,000 was shared by two readers yesterday. Details, page 3.
● Portfolio list, page 25; how to play, information service, page 20.

Home News	2-5	Leaders	17
Overseas	7-11	Letters	17
Arts	18-24	Obituary	17
Arts	13	Parliament	4
Births, deaths, marriages	19	Property	28-29
Business	21-26	Science	19
Court	18	Sport Reports	38
Crosswords	14-16	Sport	35-38, 40
Daily	16	Theatre	12
Events	20	TV & Radio	39
Features	14-16	Weather	28
Law Report	35	Wills	18

Iranians laugh amid debris of Basra fighting

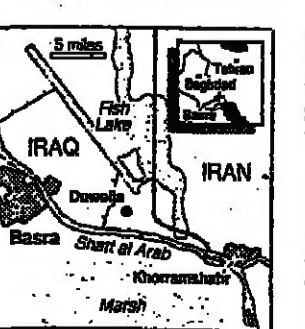
From Robert Fisk, Fishlake Canseway, Iranian-occupied Iraq

The young Iranian boys did not even bother to keep their helmets on amid the shellfire. They lounged around the earthworks of the captured Iraqi front, smoking cigarettes, hanging out their washing, eating their army rations and waving at us as the artillery rounds hissed overhead. The explosions even made them laugh. Was it a contempt for death or merely their reaction to our fear?

It is along a narrow and fearful causeway a few feet above the flooded battlefields east of Basra that Iran's army

of boys, elderly volunteers, Revolutionary Guard commanders and captured weapons are moving towards the Iraqi city. "War till victory," the youths shouted from the mud, and after we had driven along that ridge of earth and reached the ruined Iraqi defences at Shalamzar, Commander Mazarin pointed over the ramparts towards Iraq's besieged city by way of confirmation.

"You can see the petrochemical works in the suburbs," he shouted. Peering over a ledge of mud that physically shook as the Iranian gunners fired their 155 mm shells from the water-



logged gun-line behind us, we could make out quite clearly across an expanse of bright water the towers and factory buildings of Basra's suburban industrial complex, grey on the horizon, silhouetted by the artillery men by the mid-

day sun. A mob of uniformed boys stood around us laughing. "Why be afraid," one asked. "Look, we are protected — Saddam will die."

A few hours earlier, President Saddam Hussein of Iraq had declared the causeway "a furnace" in which the Iranians would perish. Yet that boy's "protection" in Shalamzar consisted of just one red bandana wound tightly around his head, upon which, inscribed in yellow, was God's supposed invocation to destroy the Iraqi regime. Could one but remember here amid the mud Siegfried Sassoon's great poem of the First World War in which God concluded

that — with both sides praying for his assistance — he had his work cut out?

The images of the First World War and its terrible casualties are no journalistic cliché here. The battlefields are on an epic scale: even when the shells burst in the canal on both sides of us, it is impossible not to be awed by the lakes of mud and water, craters and dugouts, the sheer infernal sound of a conflict that has already consumed a million dead, perhaps 20,000 of them in the past two weeks in this very firth around us.

There are Iraqi bodies still

Continued on page 20, col 1

NEWS SUMMARY

Royal Dockyard sale criticized

Babcock Thorn was yesterday awarded the seven-year contract to run the Royal Dockyard at Rosyth in Scotland. The announcement by Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Defence, in the Commons, was attacked by the Opposition MPs.

Mr Martin O'Neill, a Labour defence spokesman, said that the deal would cause resentment among the Rosyth workforce and the minister's dismissal of the union call for ownership to be transferred to trading funds was a "gross oversimplification" of their case.

Mr Younger insisted that he had met his legal obligations to inform and consult the unions over the sale. Dr David Owen, the SDP leader, said that MPs would come to regret "investing in a private monopoly for refitting the nuclear deterrent".

Parliament, page 4

Mother's Murder escape

A woman and her baby son escaped with minor injuries yesterday when an empty train from the Salford nuclear complex was in collision with their car on an unmanned level crossing near the village of Haverhill in Cumbria.

Mrs Elaine Moore, aged 31, and her 12-month-old son Stephen, from Kirkstunton, were taken to Furness Hospital in Barrow.

The hospital said Mrs Moore would probably be detained for observation. Her son was allowed home.

£100m freight plan

British Rail is considering spending about £100 million on new locomotives for its heavy freight trains. Tenders for about a hundred, costing roughly £1 million each, are likely to be invited later this year, for delivery starting in 1989 and spread over about three years. They would be operated by Railfreight, the British Rail subsidiary which concentrates on heavy freight movements such as coal, aggregate and petroleum.

Surprise in Truro

Mrs Margaret Scott, the elder sister of the late Mr David Penhaligon (right), has emerged as a surprise contender to fight the Truro by-election caused by the Liberal MP's death.

The by-election is likely to be held on March 12.

Mrs Scott, aged 46, was one of 51 contenders to defend her brother's 10,480 majority who had submitted their applications by Monday night's deadline.

She is a college lecturer in Guildford, Surrey. She said yesterday: "It's a decision of the head, not the heart."



Whiskey in fatal car

One of two women who died when their jeep fell into 20 feet of water after apparently trying to board a departing ferry had an alcohol level three times over the legal limit for driving, an inquest jury heard yesterday.

Diverters who recovered the bodies of Mrs Eileen Bond, aged 42, of Church View Road, and Mrs Deborah Emerson, aged 23, of Hospital Bridge Road, both Twickenham, found a three-quarter full bottle of Irish whiskey in the vehicle, the Isle of Wight inquest was told.

Dr Robert Kumar, police surgeon, said head injuries to both women were consistent with them hitting a bar on the top of the vehicle as it turned over before entering the sea at Fishbourne on the Isle of Wight.

A verdict of accidental death was returned on the women, who had been visiting an inmate at Camp Hill Prison.

Clash over Irish bank raid

A political dispute erupted yesterday after the hijacking of £1.1m by three armed men during a raid on a Securix van in the Irish Republic on Monday.

The opposition Fianna Fail party claimed that financial cutbacks were responsible for a spate of armed robberies. The raiders, who are not believed to be terrorists, snatched the cash in used notes from a van in Dublin.

Senior police sources said they had not been informed by Securix that such a large sum of money was being moved.

Farming incomes rise 21%

By John Young

Agriculture Correspondent

Farm incomes rose by an estimated 21 per cent to £1.11 million last year, but still more than 50 per cent below the high point of 1984, according to the Government's annual review of agriculture published yesterday. A surprisingly optimistic summary of income forecasts for this year, and that cereal and general cropping farms will experience a market income recovery. But cattle and sheep farmers in lowland areas will experience a further fall in incomes.

Mr Simon Gourlay, president of the National Farmers' Union, said last night that the underlying trend in farm incomes was still downwards.

Annual Review of Agriculture 1987 (Command 67, HMSO, £5.60).

But the £546 million saving has been engineered with the Americans, after a reassessment of the Royal Navy's requirements for the Trident submarine.

Although the specifications have not changed, the Ministry of Defence has been making a number of refinements to the submarine, as work has progressed on the first one, HMS Vanguard, now being built by Vickers at Barrow shipyard in Cumbria.

The original contract with the Americans to purchase the C4 Trident missile system, which was signed in July 1980 and then updated when the Government chose the more powerful D5 system, included a flexible arrangement under which negotiations could be held if requirements changed during the production period.

But the £546 million saving has been engineered with the Americans, after a reassessment of the Royal Navy's requirements for the Trident submarine.

Anderton makes peace with authority

By Ian Smith

Greater Manchester Police Authority was forced yesterday to accept a compromise peace accord with its outspoken chief constable, Mr James Anderton.

After a two-hour meeting at the Home Office between Mr Anderton, the chairman of the police authority, Mr Stephen Murphy and his deputy, Mr David Moffat, the three men emerged to announce that the dispute was officially over.

It means, Mr Anderton insisted, that he had not been gagged. But it also meant an

undertaking from him that he would confer with the police authority chairman should he wish to make any future controversial statements "germane" to his job.

Mr Murphy stood next to Mr Anderton as he read out a statement that said the chairman and chief constable had agreed to meet regularly to "discuss matters of common interest" so that each was aware in advance of any developments which might give rise to concern. Those discussions would take full account of their effective

statutory responsibilities.

Mr Anderton said: "I shall consider in the future when I wish to speak upon any issue germane to the policing of Greater Manchester whether or not it would be in everyone's best interest and prudent to discuss my intentions with other persons."

Mr Anderton, referring to his speech on Aids, which was given a hostile reception, and then the Radio 4 religious programme interview last week when he suggested he might have been chosen by God as a prophet, admitted he

had never predicted the reaction he got.

Sir Lawrence Byford, Chief Inspector of Constabulary, was asked last week to meet police authority representatives 24 hours after Mr Anderton's radio interview.

This was followed by an official discussion separately with Mr Anderton, who was warned of the possible outcome if he failed to measure his public words more carefully.

Under section 29 of the Police Act 1964 Mr Anderton knew he faced a charge of

endangering the efficiency of the force if he refused to give an undertaking to measure his words more carefully in future.

Next Wednesday, Manchester City Council meet to formally agree a recommendation by their police monitoring committee that they force a meeting of the police authority within seven days. At that meeting left-wing Labour members will attempt to ask Mr Anderton 14 questions, most involving the resignation of his former deputy, Mr John Stalker.

New police powers over marches and processions

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Wide new powers for police to tackle mass demonstrations will allow stringent controls on assemblies such as that outside the News International plant at Wapping at the weekend, bringing them within the scope of the criminal law.

Under the Public Order Act 1986, police powers to prevent serious public disorder and impose conditions on marches and processions will be extended to cover static demonstrations and to preventing "serious disruption to the life of a community".

The Government says the new powers, to be brought into force on April 1, are not being rushed into effect because of the weekend violence. It had in the past made clear that it intended to help police deal with this kind of disturbance.

During second reading of the Public Order Bill last June in the Lords, Lord Glenarthur said that "all responsible people will deplore the violence and disorder seen at Wapping. The Bill's provisions may go some way towards helping the police in such situations."

But he added that the way forward in the Wapping dispute was "in the sensible cooperation between the police and the organizers of the demonstrations to reduce disorder and prevent violence, which only the troublemakers want."

Under the act there will be no power to ban assemblies (static demonstrations), nor a requirement for advance notice, as exists for marches.

But the powers will give police wide discretion to impose conditions on the numbers, place and duration of any

assembly, making it a criminal offence to knowingly breach a condition.

The penalties are three months' imprisonment or a fine of up to £1,000, or both, for organizers; or a fine of £4,000 for those taking part.

Section 14 of the act gives the police power to impose conditions on an assembly where a senior police officer "reasonably believes" it could result in serious public disorder, serious disruption of a community, serious damage to property or serious disruption to the life of a community; or that the purpose of the organizers is the intimidation of others.

But during its Parliamentary passage the bill came under fire from opposition MPs, peers and from bodies such as the Legal Action Group, which said that it gave police a far too wide — some said "virtually unfettered" — discretion which would only exacerbate relations between police and demonstrators.

Lord Hutchinson of Lullington said that to "criminalize the actions of maybe hundreds of citizens in circumstances of deeply held concern when there is factually little possibility of mass prosecutions is surely, as the miners' strike so vividly showed, a most damaging and hollow policy to pursue."

The Legal Action Group said that should the police directions be contested in court, the officer would merely have to show that he reasonably believed them necessary to prevent disorder or disruption to the community. The courts would be unlikely to interfere with an officer's exercise of his discretion.

Hurd attacks Labour's 'lunatic' policy

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, hit out last night at Labour's "lunatic" proposals to bring the police under democratic supervision and spoke of the pressures which would have been applied in the Wapping dispute if they had been in force.

Mr Hurd said Labour wanted to sweep away the careful checks and balances which had been developed in support of the principle that the rule of law must be upheld and the Queen's peace maintained even-handedly and without political interference.

He urged the Labour leadership to come clean over Wapping. Was it their belief that the police should not protect those who worked at the plant? Should the pickets be allowed to impose mob rule and close the plant? "They dodge and weave when those questions are posed and refuse to answer," said Mr Hurd in London.

"The police are not at Wapping in support of Mr Murdoch, they have no views about the rights or wrongs of the dispute; that is not their job. Their job is to protect the individual rights of citizens from coercion."

"But imagine the pressure

which would have been brought to bear to allow those rights to be discarded if the policing of London were subject, as Labour proposes, to the commands of Mr Livingstone, Mr Grant and the rest of that fanatic crew."

Mr Hurd said the Metropolitan Police would continue to police Wapping so long as their presence was needed to uphold the law.

The key lay in the hands of the unions, he said. If they wanted to continue the dispute, as was their right, let them do so in a way which did not impose a harsh penalty on the police and people of London.

Charles Spencer, a dismissed printer who obstructed a policeman during a skirmish outside the News International plant at Wapping, was fined £25 and ordered to pay £30 costs by Thames magistrates yesterday.

Spencer, aged 49, of Hall Street, Finsbury, who had denied the charge, was bound over in the sum of £50 for 12 months.

Stephen Humphries, aged 36, of Saling Green, Noakbridge Village, Laidon, Essex, denied using insulting words and was acquitted.

Trident contract

Bargaining saves £546m

By Michael Evans, Whitehall Correspondent

Hard bargaining with the Americans over the development of the Trident missile programme has knocked £546 million off the cost, now estimated by the Ministry of Defence to be £9,265 million.

Mr George Younger, the Secretary of State for Defence, announced in the Commons that the Trident programme is on course. The favourable exchange rate, with the pound valued at \$1.50 at June 1986 prices, compared with \$1.28 the previous year, had also brought estimated savings of £598 million, although inflation had forced the cost up by £540 million.

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But the £546 million saving has been engineered with the Americans, after a reassessment of the Royal Navy's requirements for the Trident submarine.

The ministry said that the savings were spread across many parts of the programme. The original estimate for the D5 system was £5,990 million. So far, of the 200 British companies which have put in bids, 55 have been awarded a total of 229 contracts, worth \$52 million (£32.8 million).

The strong pound has meant that a larger share of the expenditure will be carried out in Britain. The initial contract was for 45 per cent of the estimate to be spent in the US and 55 per cent in Britain. But the higher the pound against the dollar, the less is spent in the US and currently the British share of the expenditure has increased from 55 per cent to 62 per cent.



Dame Barbara Sheenfield, chairman of the Women's Royal Voluntary Service, with her arms full as her organization begins distribution of EEC surplus food. The first of the butter was given to the elderly of Enfield, north London, with their meals on wheels yesterday (Photograph: John Rogers).

Nuclear power

Fears of Chernobyl in UK

By Pearce Wright and Teresa Poole

Half the people in Britain believe that an accident similar to Chernobyl could happen in the UK, according to a Mori poll published yesterday.

A majority is also against building more nuclear power stations. The poll was conducted before this week's recommendation by Sir Frank Layfield in favour of a pressurized water reactor at Sizewell.

Half those interviewed thought that a Chernobyl-type disaster could take place and 43 per cent thought it unlikely. About 54 per cent were against the building of more nuclear power stations but less than a third of those surveyed supported the immediate closure of all Britain's nuclear power plants.

The survey, carried out for

Reader's Digest, interviewed 1,761 adults in the week of January 9.

There was general scepticism about the trustworthiness of information about nuclear energy. Only a quarter trusted what the Government said and 21 per cent believed the Civil Service.

On whether Britain was dependent on nuclear power for its future energy needs, 41 per cent thought there was no real choice but to use nuclear energy, while 45 per cent did not think the country was dependent.

Over the past six months opinion on the safety of treating and storing nuclear waste has shifted in favour of the nuclear argument. About 42 per cent believed current methods were acceptable compared with 37 per cent in a poll in June last year.

The poll coincided with the joining of forces yesterday by three of the main objectors to a renewed campaign to block plans for Sizewell B.

The groups are the Town and Country Planning Association, the Council for the Protection of Rural England and Friends of the Earth.

Objectors insisted yesterday that Sir Frank Layfield's report was massively out of date.

They added that the Central Electricity Generating Board's own estimate of what Sizewell B would cost to build had already risen from £1,147 million to £1,550 million — far more than the rate of inflation. As a result, instead of saving £1,000 million over its lifetime as the board had claimed, the reactor would lose between £400 million and £500 million, they said.

Nunn gives up director's role at RSC

By Gavin Bell

Arts Correspondent

Mr Trevor Nunn has relinquished his executive role at the Royal Shakespeare Company, making way for his associate Mr Terry Hands to become the sole artistic director. Mr Nunn has held that job for almost 10 years.

His transfer to a new advisory capacity is part of structural changes which are likely to see Sir Peter Hall leaving to see Sir Gordon Downey, the Comptroller and Auditor General.

His National Audit Office report shows, for example, that 17 per cent of the 137,000 married servicemen's quarters were vacant last January — a target set by ministers in 1983 to reduce vacant houses to 5,000 by next year is unlikely to be met.

Sir Gordon recommends that a strategic plan should be prepared by the Ministry of Defence and the Property Services Agency, which are

Defence 'estate' badly run, audit report says

By Richard Evans

Political Correspondent

Britain's multi-billion pound defence "estate", which includes everything from servicemen's barracks to naval bases and airfields, is not being managed efficiently, a report disclosed yesterday.

The scope for savings and improved value for money from the £1,400 million spent annually on the estate is "substantial" and runs into tens of millions of pounds, according to Sir Gordon Downey, the Comptroller and Auditor General.

His National Audit Office report shows, for example, that 17 per cent of the 137,000 married servicemen's quarters were vacant last January — a target set by ministers in 1983 to reduce vacant houses to 5,000 by next year is unlikely to be met.

Sir Gordon recommends that a strategic plan should be prepared by the Ministry of Defence and the Property Services Agency, which are

jointly responsible for running the £7 billion estate which includes about 3,000 establishments and covers more than 222,000 hectares.

But the proposal which is most likely to alarm Britain's defence chiefs is the multi-Services use of facilities. In particular the report says all service housing should be managed by a single authority.

Sir Gordon points to "a high risk of uneconomical use of the estate's assets and failure to get the best value for money from spending on investment in the estate."

"There is a need therefore for a stronger discipline on MoD and service managers to use the estate's resources more effectively," he adds. He suggests an Estate Control Authority, headed by estate management specialists, should be set up within the MoD.

The ministry has reached coolly to such an idea.

Whitehall unions to unite over pay claim

By Tim Jones

The possibility of a wide-ranging strike by key Civil Service unions gained credibility yesterday when leaders of the moderate Inland Revenue Staff Federation decided to join forces with other Whitehall unions in a pay campaign.

A special conference of the union, which has 55,000 members delivered a humiliating rebuff to Mr Tony Christopher, general secretary, and his executive, when it voted 361 to 295 to press for the joint

approach. It was a victory for broad left and militant factions who had argued it would be "divisive and dangerous" for the union to seek negotiate its own unilateral settlement.

The national executive had argued for pay increases ranging from 20 per cent to 24 per cent.

In November, the Civil and Public Services Association called for a joint campaign for a flat rate minimum of £115 for a 35-hour week.

TV claims on Tebbit lead MPs to attack

By Martin Fletcher

Political Reporter

Senior Labour MPs are preparing a personal attack on Mr Norman Tebbit, Conservative Party chairman, over his relationship with Mr Abdul Shamji, the Asian businessman whose empire collapsed with debts of £40 million.

The MPs, who include Mr George Foulkes, a Labour foreign affairs spokesman, are using as their starting point a two-part *World in Action* programme, broadcast last year, which referred repeatedly to Mr Shamji's use of his friendship with both Mr Tebbit and the Prime Minister to further his business interests.

The MPs claim that further information has been supplied to them by people who had connections with Gomina, Mr Shamji's company.

The programme told how Mr Shamji "pursued and got to know some of the most senior politicians in the land; and of how he sought to use them, often without their knowledge or consent, as the trump cards of his cardboard empire."

Amongst these politicians was Mr Tebbit, who "met and was entertained by Abdul Shamji, and the two men became friends."

At one point in the programme Mr Foulkes related how he told Mr Tebbit privately what he thought of Mr Shamji's business methods. "Mr Tebbit was quite annoyed and asked me to repeat it outside the House and see what happened then, and hasn't spoken to me since."

At another point Mr Tony Rowland, chief executive of Lorch, told how the businessman came to see him when the Shamji empire was collapsing and asked for £20 million in return for his controlling interest in Wembley Stadium.

Mr Shamji mentioned his "personal friends" in the Conservative Party because "he thought he would be able to improve the image of our company" and "said he would be able to arrange for me to meet Mr Norman Tebbit."

Mr Tebbit declined to be interviewed by the programme. He said that his friendship with Mr Shamji was not personal but arose from his party position.

Arms sale cover-up alleged

By Our Whitehall Correspondent

The Prime Minister was accused by Mr David Steel yesterday of prolonging the war between Iran and Iraq by refusing to close an Iranian oil corporation office in London alleged to be a cover for arms dealing to Tehran.

The National Iranian Oil Corporation at No 4 Victoria Street, Westminster, has been under surveillance by the security authorities for a long time. Mr Steel, in a letter to Mrs Margaret Thatcher, said that according to many reports, the building was being used as the main arms procurement centre for the Khomenei regime in Iran.

Mr Steel said he had personal confirmation from Iranian sources that the address had been used for this purpose since at least 1983.

"Until this office is closed, Her Majesty's Government are helping to prolong the Gulf War by their inaction at a time when thousands of young men are dying, and also helping to prop up a government involved in international terrorism."

The Liberal Party leader who revealed the contents of his letter to Mrs Thatcher on the Thames Television programme, *Reporting London*, last night also demanded to know whether the Prime Minister knew of the secret US arms shipments to Iran, before the affair broke in Washington.

In a letter to Mr Steel on December 4, the Prime Minister said that the Government was not informed by the United States of the arms consignment. But Mr Steel insisted yesterday that if British intelligence was watching the National Iranian Oil Corporation building in Victoria Street, "it seems very likely that they knew."

Mr Steel asked Mrs Thatcher if she had been informed and if she knew of "Irangate" before it surfaced in Washington. "If not, since London was the centre of this sorry affair, why not?"

The Foreign Office said: "The National Iranian Oil Corporation is closely monitored but there is no evidence that they do not observe our laws."

Reporting the *Times* programme on the Iran-Iraq war, the *World in Action* programme, broadcast last year, which referred repeatedly to Mr Shamji's use of his friendship with both Mr Tebbit and the Prime Minister to further his business interests.

Youth police constable

Helmet forgotten in stunt

Fund for girl

Youth laughed when police rescued dying constable, court told

One of the mob which attacked PC Keith Blacklock during the disturbances on the Broadwater Farm Estate laughed as colleagues carried away the fatally injured officer, a jury at the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

The youth taunted the senior officer at the scene, Chief Supt Colin Couch, by waving PC Blacklock's protective helmet, which had been cut from his head during the attack.

Mr Couch told of the frightening attack made on officers who ran a gauntlet of youths throwing chunks of paving stones as they tried to carry away the body of PC Blacklock, aged 40, during the disturbances in Tottenham, north-west London, on October 6, 1985.

He said that he led a small squad of officers on to the estate and saw a group of four or five people jumping on PC Blacklock's body. As he approached they ran away.

"I went to PC Blacklock and I picked him up," Mr Couch said.

"He was lying face up and I picked up his left-hand side and grabbed him under the shoulders. The officer on the other side did likewise. He held him by the lapel of his uniform which made it very difficult to balance."

A third officer protected them as they carried PC Blacklock away.

"Protection was necessary," Mr Couch said. "On my right-hand side officers were under very close attack. It was very frightening."

The sergeant in charge of PC Blacklock's squad was running backwards with rioters only inches away, lashing at his shield.

"Other officers further to my right were also being

chased. To my left there were about 50 people who were throwing chunks of paving stone at myself and the officers protecting PC Blacklock.

"As I ran back, we were being showered by missiles. I looked back to try and see what was going on. I saw one of the youths holding a protective helmet in his right hand and he was laughing at me."

Mr Couch, now a Commander, said that when they placed PC Blacklock on the ground his head rolled to one side. "We saw a knife sticking into his neck under the right ear. It went in past the hilt."

Mr Couch, giving evidence on the fifth day of the trial of six people accused of murdering PC Blacklock, praised the courage of the small squad of police, including the dead officer, and firemen who were sent into the estate to deal with a supermarket blaze.

He said the squad "very bravely" agreed to go in, although reinforcements had not arrived.

On trial are Winston Silcott, aged 27, a greengrocer, of Martlesham, Broadwater Farm; Mark Braithwaite, aged 29, unemployed, of Canonbury Villas, Kingston, north London; Engin Ragip, aged 20, unemployed, of Finbury House, Partridge Way, Wood Green, north London; and three juveniles, two aged 15 and one 16.

They all deny murder, riotous assembly and affray.

Mr Ragip and one of the 15-year-olds are white, the other defendants are black.

During cross-examination on events leading up to the disturbances, Mr Couch told Mr Michael Mansfield, defending one of the juveniles, that he was unaware that young blacks in the area were angry because they felt they

were being singled out to be stopped and searched in the street.

"I can assure you I was angry at the amount of crime that was going on in Tottenham, which tended to be perpetrated by a particular type of individual."

He agreed with Mr Mansfield that these were people categorized by police as "1C3" - of black origin.

Mr Couch said that as far as he knew Mrs Cynthia Jarrett, whose death after a police search at her home sparked off the disturbances, had been a perfectly law-abiding citizen.

"She had been in the Harringway community for 25 years; she had five children and was very well known," said Mr Mansfield.

Mr Couch replied: "The family were well known."

Mr Mansfield said: "I know what you are implying."

Mr Mansfield said that before the disturbances, Deputy Assistant Commissioner Michael Richards had blocked demands from community leaders for a public inquiry into the death of Mrs Jarrett.

Mr Mansfield maintained that Mr Richards had told them that instead there would be an investigation by the Police Complaints Authority.

"That is almost right but it is a little bit unfair to put it like that," said Mr Couch.

Mr Mansfield suggested that the police could have been seen to be acting responsibly, particularly to the black community, by immediately suspending the main officers involved in the incident in which Mrs Jarrett died.

"That was a decision for Mr Richards and he obviously thought it was not necessary," replied Mr Couch.

The case was adjourned until today.



The Director of the Tate Gallery, Mr Alan Bowness (left) launching a public appeal yesterday for funds to acquire *Constable's The Opening of Waterloo Bridge*, regarded as one of the great masterpieces of British painting. The oil on canvas, a seven-foot wide panorama of the Thames

from Whitehall to St Paul's, is on offer to the gallery from a private collection at slightly less than £3 million. Contributions and pledges have been received from the trustees and heritage organizations, but a further £500,000 is required. The work was exhibited at the Royal Academy in

1832, 15 years after the bridge was opened by the Prince Regent. With Mr Bowness are Lord Charteris, chairman of the National Heritage Memorial Fund (centre) and Mr Richard Rogers, chairman of the gallery's trustees. (Photograph: Stephen Markeson).

Dog called as witness by author

Richard Adams, the author of *Watership Down*, called his border collie dog Tetter as a witness when he appeared before an industrial tribunal in Southampton yesterday.

He also told how a frightening encounter with an angry gamekeeper had given him nightmares for the past 15 months.

He was giving evidence against Mr David Hunt, a head gamekeeper employed by Captain Andrew Wills, of the tobacco family, on his estate at Middleton near Whitechurch, Hampshire.

The author told the hearing that he and Tetter were on a public footpath near Whitechurch - close to the area on which he based his book on rabbits - when Mr Hunt confronted him.

"I have knocked around the world a bit, but I have never heard language like it. He was beside himself with rage. His words were a celebration of filth."

Mr Adams said that Mr Hunt shouted: "You wrote that story book about rabbits."

"He was angry because my dog was not on a lead. Then he put his gun to his shoulder and fired at Tetter. I thought he had shot my dog dead."

The dog was not hit. But then, Mr Adams said, the gamekeeper reloaded and said that he would shoot it if he did not put her on a lead.

Mr Adams, cross-examined by Mr Malcolm Harper, for Mr Hunt, said: "I like keepers and have mixed with them all my life. I wish you could have had my dreams about this encounter for the past 15 months."

Mr Adams then received permission to call Tetter as a witness, to demonstrate her obedience. The dog bounded into the tribunal room, but sat instantly when commanded by her owner.

The case was brought by Mr David Clatridge, a gamekeeper and former assistant to Mr Hunt, who was suing Capt Wills for constructive dismissal. He claimed that Mr Hunt's outbursts so alarmed him that he was forced to resign. He called Mr Adams as a witness to the temper of Mr Hunt.

Mr Hunt said that Mr Adams's dog had scattered the pheasants he had reared from chicks for shooting, and said that he asked politely three times for her to be put on a lead before swearing.

"He just put his nose in the air and carried on walking. I formed the view that he was a right little pompous so and so," he told the tribunal.

The case was withdrawn by Mr Clatridge after he accepted a settlement of £2000.

The case continues today.

Proposed housing law changes New deal in tenant disputes

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Radical proposals to enable landlords and tenants to settle housing disputes quickly, cheaply and simply, outside the formal court system, were outlined in a consultation paper published by the Lord Chancellor and the Minister of Housing yesterday.

Simple disputes between landlord and tenant over housing rights, such as repairs, improvements or service charges, would be dealt with by a new informal small claims procedure with people representing themselves.

This new procedure, called a "housing action", would take a large number of disputes out of the present formal court system.

Currently 1,500 such disputes are handled by the courts a year but it is estimated that many more people would pursue cases if not deterred by the high costs and formality of court proceedings.

Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, Lord Chancellor, said: "We are not altering the balance of power between landlord and tenant or taking sides. The proposals are aimed at improving procedures."

He said a small claims procedure, which would involve a private hearing like all such arbitration, would be more informal than the present court system, with the registrar acting as the arbitrator.

Where the issues were too complex for the new procedure, and legal representation was needed, the dispute could still be switched to the county court for a full formal hearing.

The paper also proposes a new "arbitration action" for tackling back claims for rent, to replace the present procedure under which landlords seek possession orders.

Yesterday Mr John Patten, housing minister, said that at present local councils evoked the "full blown court procedure", seeking eviction orders just to extract a few hundred pounds from tenants.

Instead the consultation paper suggests such claims be dealt with like other debts, which can be brought to judgement without a hearing.

Only if the tenant or possibly the mortgagee does not keep up the payments ordered would the case proceed to a court hearing to decide if eviction is reasonable.

The consultation paper rejects the idea of a new Housing Court to deal with all housing disputes. The work of the county courts and the rent assessment committees is too diverse to be brought under one roof.

Yesterday the Law Centres Federation welcomed the paper as "the most comprehensive review" of housing law for more than a century.

Civil Justice Review: Housing Cases. Lord Chancellor's Department, £1.

politicised, of cynicism and arrogance. "They show conspicuously little faith in the good sense of the British public, and they seem mesmerized by a view of television which ascribes to it dangerous powers which people in the street know to be imaginary."

Mr Grade said at a Newspaper Press Fund charity lunch in Glasgow.

Some Fleet Street attacks were part of a campaign to undermine the corporation, he claimed.

Mr Grade said: "Many of our critics... discern a media conspiracy within any issue which currently obsesses them."

"Recent opinion polls show that around 80 per cent of the public think we are doing a decent, unbiased job. Of the other 20 per cent, half think we are a bunch of Communists and the other half think we are a bunch of fascists," he said.

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Portfolio Gold Mozartian touch to the day

A lover of classical music celebrated Mozart's birthday yesterday by sharing the Portfolio Gold prize of £4,000.

Mr Bernard Jones, aged 52, of Byron Avenue, Camberley, Surrey, said he had a feeling it would be a special day when he saw in *The Times* anniversary column that Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was born on January 27, 1756.

Mr Jones, technical manager of a packing company, said: "I knew then it was a lucky day for me. I'm a great fan of his music and I regard him as God."

Mr Jones said he had been reading *The Times* for four years but he had only recently started to play Portfolio.

The other joint winner of yesterday's Portfolio gold prize of £4,000 was Mrs Virginia Walker, of Pollywick Road, Wiggington, Hertfordshire.

Readers can obtain a Portfolio Gold card by sending a stamped addressed envelope to:

Portfolio Gold
The Times
PO Box 40
Blackburn
BB1 6AJ.



Mr Bernard Jones, who was celebrating twice yesterday

George Davis is jailed for theft attempt

George Davis, who was the subject of a campaign in the 1970s after his conviction for a crime it was claimed he did not commit, was jailed yesterday for 18 months with nine months suspended, for an attempted mail train theft in Southwark Crown Court in London was told that that Davis and a second man, John Gravel, were trapped by police in a train mail van.

Davis, aged 45, of Cotall Street, Poplar, east London, was jailed for 17 years in 1975 for robbery. Following a campaign to free him, he was released in May 1976 by royal prerogative. Yesterday Davis admitted the attempted theft of three mail bags.

Gravel, aged 47, of Throley Way, Sutton, south London, was convicted of five charges, including theft, attempted theft and attempted wounding with intent to resist arrest. He failed for a total of 10 years.

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'Helmet forgotten' in stunt

The BBC team training Mr Michael Lush for a TV stunt forgot to place a crash helmet on his head as they prepared the jump that killed him, an inquest at Milton Keynes heard yesterday.

It was only as Mr Roy Bullen, a crane driver, began to hoist Mr Lush into the air inside a metal box, that the error was spotted.

Mr Bullen lowered the box, the helmet was fitted and the box was then hoisted for the jump, in which an elasticated rope was supposed to break Mr Lush's fall.

Mr Lush, an unemployed hood-carer, aged 25, of Hobb Lane, Hidge End, near Southampton, was killed on November 13 last year at Long Crendon, Buckinghamshire, when he plunged to the ground during training for the stunt, which was to be screened live on *The Late Late Breakfast Show*, presented by Noel Edmonds.

Mr Bullen, of Appleton Road, Longworth, near Abingdon, Oxfordshire, told the jury that the agreed signal of a whistle was given for Mr Lush to emerge from the box. Nothing happened for up to two minutes, said Mr Bullen, but during the delay nobody shouted to Mr Lush to ask him if anything was wrong.

It was only when Mr David Nicholson, the production manager, shouted "Go" that Mr Lush dropped out of the suspended box.

Mr Bullen said that at first the bungee rope seemed to be stretching out behind him. "Then, all of a sudden, it just snapped behind. I knew something had gone wrong. I saw him fall to the ground. I ran over to him but there was nothing I could do."

The jury was shown film of a reconstruction staged at RAF Abingdon, Oxfordshire, with a dummy taking the place of Mr Lush.

In more than a dozen drops using the dummy everything went to plan and the bungee rope pulled up the dummy short of the ground. Several drops were also performed using bundles of sacks which were allowed to plunge to the ground.

Both Mr Nicholson and Mr Paul Matthews, an escapist whose job it was to train Mr Lush for the stunt, were recalled to the witness box after confusion over which way round the carabina clip was fitted from the bungee rope to an eye bolt.

Each said it had been fitted in a different way, although in his original evidence last week, Mr Nicholson had agreed with Mr Matthews' evidence that the position had been the same.

Mr Nicholson agreed that the position of the clip might be "fundamental" to the case. The hearing continues.

Fund for girl

An appeal fund was set up yesterday to provide long-term care for Catherine Humphrey, aged 10, who was stabbed at Minster, Kent, 10 days ago.

Guidelines issued on timeshare trap

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

The Government yesterday issued guidelines on timesharing to warn potential owners against being trapped into buying something they do not want or cannot afford.

The move was prompted by recent reports about persistent high-pressure selling of timeshare contracts both in Britain and abroad, particularly in Spain and Portugal.

The leaflet, *Your Place in the Sun*, drawn up after talks with the main timeshare organizations, gives a checklist for people considering buying a timeshare, which is a share for a week or more each year in a holiday property.

Mr Michael Howard, Under Secretary of State at the Department of Trade and Industry, said that consumers should not rush into buying anything without making a few commonsense checks.

The leaflet advises sign nothing at the first meeting with the salesman unless you have a written promise of a reasonable "cooling off" period.

Pay nothing at that stage unless you are certain about the deal. Beware of pressure selling.

'Everyone was enjoying Cynthia's sex party'

Police who found couples having sex when they raided Cynthia Payne's house were told by the hostess: "It's a party. Everybody is having fun," a court heard was told yesterday.

Police took Mrs Payne on a tour of the house and asked if she knew what her guests were getting up to.

"She is alleged to have told them: 'I know, I know. It's a sex party, not a drugs party.'"

Mrs Payne, aged

January 27 1987

PARLIAMENT

Report on crash to stay secret

The report of a board of inquiry set up to investigate last month's accident in Wiltshire, during which a vehicle in a military convoy overturned, was classified and would not be published, Mr John Stanley, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, said during Commons questions.

Troops by air

The recent successful completion of the Moortown airport complex would enable the Falkland Islands to be adequately defended at all times with fewer troops being sent to the islands, Mr Stanley said during Commons questions.

Kent's oath

The Duke of Kent took the oath of allegiance in the House of Lords today in readiness for his coronation. The Duke of Kent, who is the Duke of York's younger brother, took the oath immediately after the general election in 1985.

Tunnel choice

Lord Amptill, deputy chairman of the Channel Tunnel group, said he was asked to chair the Lords select committee on the Channel Tunnel Bill, which will decide the fate of the project this summer.

Phone thanks

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, expressed her thanks during Commons questions to the House of Commons for the support of British Telecom who were keeping the telephone network going during the strike by members of the National Communications Union and maintaining emergency services.

Wapping rule

All vehicles leaving the News International plant at Wapping in east London are required to observe road traffic regulations, Mr Douglas Hogg, Under-Secretary of State, Home Office, said in a written response to a call from Mr Peter Shore (Bethnal Green and Stepney, Lab) for a report from the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police into whether the BBC had allowed to disregard speed limits and traffic lights.

Rates Bill

The Local Government Finance Bill, which validates the system of rate-support grant given to local authorities, was read the third time early on Tuesday morning by 233 votes to 165 - Government majority, 68. The system had been found to be illegal.

Nimrod cash

During Commons questions on defence procurement expenditure, Mr Robert Jones (West Hertfordshire, C) asked if ministers were satisfied that the proportion of the Nimrod programme spent on Nimrod was not siphoned off to spend on other projects by GEC. Mr Archie Hamilton, Under-Secretary of State for Defence Procurement, said he would have to have notice of a question like that.

Defence aid

More than 90 per cent of the Ministry of Defence's gross equipment expenditure of about £8.5 billion in the financial year 1985-86 was spent with British companies or on collaborative projects from which the United Kingdom industry benefited as a participant, Mr Archie Hamilton, Under-Secretary of State for Defence Procurement, said in a written reply.

Thatcher is accused of complacency and frenzy

ZIRCON PROJECT

The Prime Minister was accused of four months of complacency followed by four days of frenzy when she and Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, confronted each other on the question of the unexplained BBC programme about the Zircon project.

The Prime Minister said that Mr Kinnock's strictures should be directed at the *New Statesman*, which had published the information. She said she was not aware of the programme until it was broadcast. At the end of the exchanges, Mr Robin Cook (Livingston, Lab) said that the police had removed correspondence between the Prime Minister and Mr Kinnock. Mr Kinnock said that the Prime Minister's own answer to Mr Dale Campbell-Savours that the Government knew in October of the intention to include specific material on a secret defence project in a BBC programme.

Could she explain the contrast between four months of complacency and four days of activity last week, seeking information, sending letters, threatening newspaper editors and sending police into magazine offices? Why so casual for so long and so frenzied for so short?

Mrs Thatcher said that in October 1986 the Government had learnt of the BBC's intention to show specific material about a secret defence project. Discussions took place between the Government and the BBC, which later decided not to show the material. So the discussions were successful.

Mr Kinnock Does she really hope to convince the country that a chat with the BBC was sufficient to safeguard national security (Conservative protest).

Does she not agree that if a national security secret is worth having, it is worth keeping and not telling the BBC? She said she did not agree. She said she was not aware of the programme until it was broadcast. Her action last week had been produced by lateness, clumsiness and vindictiveness.

Mrs Thatcher said the discussions with the BBC had been successful. She said she was not aware of the programme until it was broadcast. She said she was not aware of the programme until it was broadcast. She said she was not aware of the programme until it was broadcast.

Bill is introduced to help pensioners

Mr Jeremy Corbyn (Islington North, Lab) was given leave under the 10-minute rule procedure to bring in the Pensioners' Right to Fuel and Communications Bill, which would ensure the supply of gas and electricity for pensioner households, abolish standing charges for gas and electricity and water, and abolish telephone rentals for pensioners.

What the nation was seeing, he said, was the pauperization of many people in order to make these industries ready for privatization. That was evidenced by the Government's abolition of standing charge rebates for gas and electricity.



The Prime Minister: "Mr Kinnock should turn his strictures against Mr Campbell."

Babcock Thorn wins Rosyth Dockyard contract, Younger tells Commons

DEFENCE

Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Defence, announced in a Commons statement that a contract was to be signed with Babcock Thorn for the future operation of Rosyth Dockyard from April 6 for a period of seven years.

The trade unions, he said, continued to favour in their discussions with ministers the option involving minimum change, that with the dockyards remaining within the Civil Service under a system of trading funds.

"I have considered very carefully what the unions have said and explained to them why, in the Government's view, a dockyard trading fund is unlikely to secure either the improvements in efficiency we seek for the Royal Navy and the dockyards or to compete successfully as a commercial company for

commercial and naval work."

He had invited the trade unions to meet him on the subject of Rosyth Dockyard on February 13 so that he could hear their views on his announcement last week that Babcock Thorn Ltd was the preferred contractor for Rosyth. Only when he had carefully considered such views would he take a final decision on its operation.

Mr March O'Neill, an Opposition spokesman on defence, said that since 1985 nothing had been changed as a result of consultations with the trade unions. Mr Younger's dismissal of trading funds was a gross oversimplification of the issue, he said.

He said that the dockyards were prepared for a wide range of changes and sought to co-operate with management in

improving efficiency and cost saving.

Mr Younger had rushed into the contract in order to get Rosyth back into Rosyth as quickly as possible.

"This sham of consultation will exacerbate the resentment at Rosyth at the proposed loss of 5,000 jobs."

The new management was going to do the Government's dirty work.

He asked him to look at the revelations which had come to light about the penalties which Brown and Root (being considered for the Rosyth management) had had to pay in respect of poor quality work in major contracts. He asked that the minister should examine seri-

PLO office 'an invitation to terrorists'

HOUSE OF LORDS

The opening of a PLO office in the heart of Kensington in west London was an invitation to turn the streets of London into a battle ground for Middle East terrorism, Lord Chalfont (Ind) said during Commons questions.

He had asked what policy the Government was proposing to adopt towards the opening of this independent PLO office.

Lady Young, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said: The Palestine Liberation Organization has been represented in London since 1971, until recently sharing an office with the Arab League.

The move of the PLO into its new premises did not require government permission. There is no question of the PLO enjoying any official status, privileges or immunities in this country.

Lord Chalfont: Is it not true that while the PLO occupied premises under the umbrella of the Arab League, it was an unlikely target for Palestinian terrorists? Now that it has a separate office with the umbrella of the Arab League removed, is it not a much more attractive target for the Abu Nidal group which has been committing murderous terrorist attacks against the PLO over many years?

The siting of this new independent office in a residential section of London lays us open once more to turning quiet London streets into a battle ground of Middle Eastern terrorism.

Lady Young: I appreciate the concern that lies behind the question, but the truth is that no official permission is required to open an office or move to new premises.

It is not a diplomatic or

official mission: it does not therefore enjoy any official status or immunities. If the organization breaks the law then of course the Government would not hesitate to act, or if there is any illegal activity.

Lord Wells-Pestell (Lab): How can we allow such an organization in this country?

Lady Young: The Government has made clear the number of occasions that the PLO is not a terrorist organization as such, although several of its component organizations do have deplorable terrorist records.

The PLO is in fact an umbrella organization expressing the aspirations of thousands of Palestinians to secure their legitimate rights.

Lady Cox (C): The fact this office is vulnerable to terrorist violence makes the particular location unsatisfactory. The rear of the office is only 30 feet from a large primary school and a petrol station is only 30 feet from its front entrance. Local residents are deeply worried.

Lady Young: I take the point, but in moving this office no official permission was required.

Lord Chalfont: Does not the mere of this office to the middle of London provide a catalyst for terrorist activity?

Lady Young: I understand the concern expressed, but this is not a move that required official permission. As for the house being described as an armed fortress, there is a question of alterations to the structure and a matter for the local borough planning regulations.

Minister transfers contract

A small contract which a subsidiary of Electronic Data Systems used to have to provide computer bureau services to the RAF has been transferred to another company with which the Government has no reason to believe EDS has any interest, Mr Archie Hamilton, Under-Secretary of State for Defence Procurement, said when the company was criticized by a Labour MP during Commons questions for abuse of British immigration rules.

Mr Tan Dattell (Llinitgog, Lab) in the light of the documentary evidence I sent to the Home Secretary and Minister of State for the Treasury, that EDS attempted to abuse the immigration rules of this country, can we have assurance from the Ministry of Defence will not consider EDS for major data contracts which could have a value at the end of the day greater than that of Aswac?

Mr Hamilton: It is for the Home Secretary to decide whether an offence has been committed and we will advise from the Home Office.

Threat to employment Trident costs estimate £546m down

Committee in dispute

The revised estimate for Trident nuclear missile system was now £9,265 million, representing a real reduction in the estimate over last year of £546 million, Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Defence, said during Commons questions.

He emphasized the job losses which would occur if Labour were ever able to put its "destructive" non-nuclear defence policies into operation.

Mr Younger told MPs that the revised estimate for Trident was at average 1986-87 prices. In line with convention, the estimate was based on the average exchange rate applicable in June 1986, £1 = \$1.50.

The UK share of the revised estimate was 62 per cent, its highest recorded level. The estimated reduction of £546 million came after allowing for the effects of inflation and exchange rate variations.

It had been assessed that on average the programme would provide 7,500 direct and 6,000 indirect jobs over the programme period, rising to 15,000 direct and 12,000 indirect jobs in the peak years.

The project remained on pro-

temporarily fairly favourable.

But the exchange rate could go the other way.

The cost of Trident would be borne by Britain's non-nuclear defence forces. What was the point of spending money on what was chillingly called a weapon of last resort when there would not be enough money for weapons of first resort to prevent the war in Europe becoming nuclear?

Mr Younger repeated that the figure of £546 million took account of exchange rate variations.

Spending an equivalent sum to that of Trident on conventional weapons could not begin to replace the deterrent effect of Trident. That was the justification for doing it.

Mr Younger said later that nearly 400,000 United Kingdom jobs had been sustained by the Ministry of Defence's equipment spending in 1984-85. Exports of defence equipment accounted for a further 120,000 jobs.

On Poland, an estimated 11,000 MoD civilians were employed in maintaining the nuclear deterrent.

Mr Jeremy Hayes (Harlow, C)

said defence exports reached a record £5 billion in 1986. There would be dismay at Labour's policy to abolish the Defence Export Sales Organization, putting thousands of British jobs at risk.

Mr Younger said that was a valid point. Labour had admitted that its policies would lead inevitably to a major reduction in Britain's current arm sales.

Mr Davies said Mr Younger should not talk about jobs because there were far fewer people working in the defence industries than when this Government came in. Jobs had been lost in ordnance factories, dockyards at Chatham, Devonport and Rosyth.

Mr Younger replied that he could understand that Mr Davies wanted to keep off the subject of the effect on jobs of Labour policy to cancel Trident.

It would devastate not only the economy of a place such as Barrow but would have devastating effects in the west and east of Scotland and Rosyth and Faslane. Labour will have to answer to many people for these destructive policies.

Mr Wallace said it was unworthy of Dr Clark to try to start a scare in Derbyshire. There would be some other parts of the country where the geology made it likely that it might be worth doing a survey. The Government would pay for those surveys.

Parliament today Commons (2.30): Debate on an Opposition motion entitled "The failure of the City to serve the nation".

Lords (2.30): Debates on the law relating to charities and on rent controls and homelessness.



Mr Leadbitter: Refused to apologize.

Tory and Labour MPs

greeted Mr Leadbitter's failure to act with the impartiality expected of a chairman.

The amendment reminds those MPs "that the day is drawing near when they are likely to become minority party members themselves and would be loath to suffer this sort of treatment."

Last Tuesday Mr Bruce had to speak in the economics debate as his party's employment spokesman at the same time as moving an amendment to the Petroleum Bill, which has a direct bearing on his constituents, in the committee.

In the event he moved the amendment, apologized to the committee for having to leave before the vote, and hurried to the chamber.

After he left, Mr Leadbitter censured Mr Bruce.

When Mr Bruce asked Mr Leadbitter at the committee's next meeting if it was true that he had been reproached, Mr Leadbitter again accused Mr Bruce of disloyalty.

Baker gets his way on teachers' Bill

By Sheila Gunn, Political Staff

The Government failed attempts in the Lords over two days to weaken Mr Kenneth Baker's power to impose his own pay and conditions on the long-running teachers' dispute.

With the Secretary of State of Education and Science often watching the committee stage of his Teachers' Pay and Conditions Bill, Government whips ensured substantial majorities for the most crucial votes.

They were greatly helped by the backing in the division lobbies of many independent members who had held a rare informal meeting with Mr Baker before the committee stage to air their fears.

The Bill allows Mr Baker to impose his own £608 million settlement on the teachers, with the emphasis going on money and better promotion prospects for what are considered the better teachers.

1990, under the direct control

of Mr Baker, to negotiate pay and conditions. Mr Baker will be in charge of its membership and will not be bound by its recommendations.

In the Lords, Labour's plan for a national joint council, to replace the advisory committee, stumbled on the abstention of the Alliance peers. They lost their vote by 148 votes to 75 - government majority 73.

The plan, backed by six teachers' unions and the local authority associations, would have set up a 57-member council to replace the Burnham committee. It gave Mr Baker 15 votes and two places and the National Union of Teachers, 13 places.

Many peers do not like the idea of the advisory committee and said it would not solve the problem of disruption in the schools. But they felt that Labour's plan simply replaced Burnham with another Burnham-type committee which would fail to reach agreement.

Steel demands resignation

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, has taken the almost unprecedented step of tabling a motion of no confidence in the Labour chairman of a Commons standing committee and of calling for his resignation from the chairmen panel.

Mr Steel acted after the refusal of Mr Ted Leadbitter, MP for Hartlepool, to apologize for what the Liberal Chief Whip, Mr David Alton, described as his "extraordinary outburst" against the sole Liberal MP on the committee, Mr Malcolm Bruce.

The issue is now likely to be debated in the Commons.

More than a hundred Labour and Conservative MPs, including those on the committee, have since rushed to Mr Leadbitter's defence, tabling a counter motion supporting his behaviour.

Committee in dispute

Mr Leadbitter: Refused to apologize.

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Government to take steps on radioactive gas in houses

ENVIRONMENT

The Government was taking steps to deal with the problems of Radon-222, a naturally occurring radioactive gas, in houses in some areas of the country, Mr William Waldegrave, Minister for Environment, Countryside and Planning, said in a Commons statement.

He had been advised by the National Radiological Protection Board (NRPB) and the Committee on the Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment (COMARE) that the available evidence strongly suggested that exposure to the gas increased the risk of lung cancer.

The NRPB estimated that there were about 20,000 houses with radon concentrations high enough to give rise to doses of 20 millisieverts or more, and that remedial action should be taken on these in due course. Most were likely to be in Devon and Cornwall.

To identify the houses with the highest levels the Government was funding a substantial survey by the NRPB which would take about two years.

scope of the survey, the NRPB

would be arranging a measurement service at no cost to those concerned.

In the rest of the country the department judged there was no need for special action and measurements would be made only at the expense of those who demanded them. A leaflet was being produced which would be made widely available in areas likely to have radon concentrations. It would give full details of this service.

Responsibility for remedial measures in houses must rest with the owner or the landlord in respect of both public and private rented accommodation. The Government was prepared to consider offering financial assistance towards the costs of remedial work to the most needy owner-occupiers.

"For the future, we will make changes to the building regulations aimed at preventing the problem occurring in new houses. We propose to provide guidance on practical measures which builders in particular areas may need to take."

position spokesman on environmental

protection and development, said that the figure of 20 mSv a year as an action level in existing houses was 14 times the average dosage of a worker in a nuclear installation and was 1,000 times the dosage of a chest X-ray. Why was 20 chosen when the figure of 16 was much more acceptable?

There were other parts of the country which suffered from hot spots as Devon and Cornwall did. Why had the minister decided to exclude from the survey people living in the Derbyshire and Yorkshire Pennines which had a high measurement reading?

Mr Waldegrave said it was unworthy of Dr Clark to try to start a scare in Derbyshire. There would be some other parts of the country where the geology made it likely that it might be worth doing a survey. The Government would pay for those surveys.

Parliament today Commons (2.30): Debate on an Opposition motion entitled "The failure of the City to serve the nation".

Lords (2.30): Debates on the law relating to charities and on rent controls and homelessness.

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Harrow emerges as the country's most successful education authority

New reforms ahead for schools with top marks

By Mark Dowd, Education Reporter

Latest research may well confirm Harrow as England's most prolific education authority when it comes to securing O-level passes, but Mr John Mann, its director of education, has announced that he will still be pressing ahead with reforms.

According to Dr John Gray and Mr David Jenson of Sheffield University, 43.5 per cent of Harrow's fifth formers achieve five passes or more. Not only is this 16 points above the national average,

but it means that even allowing for a handicapping factor which penalizes local authorities for having a disproportionate share of socially advantaged pupils, Harrow is still top of the form, ahead of 95 other English education authorities.

Mr Mann takes no personal credit for the impressive exam statistics. He has been in his present post for only three years, and, as he points out, there is only one way you can go from the top of the table.

Indeed, his desire to avoid complacency makes him more than prone to emphasize some of Harrow's shortcomings.

A relatively narrow curriculum and early specialization in some schools often confirms a gender stereotyping in choice of subject, he said.

"Very few girls take more than a single science for example, and at A-level we have virtually no boys taking a modern language."

So Harrow, in north-west London, is pressing ahead with changes.

Three of the borough's four sixth-form colleges will be



Mr John Stanley, headmaster, with some of his pupils at Rooks Heath High School in Harrow, north-west London

abolished in September. They will be succeeded by tertiary colleges which will include facilities for adult education as well as the 16-19 age bracket.

Preliminary work has also begun on pupil profiling, a system which monitors wider dimensions of school life than simply examination performance.

"Clearly, exam results are a very important kind of success because they have a high market value," Mr Mann said.

"But we are anxious to start recording other successes. The trouble with the exam system is that it's a rather limited

representation of what kids have studied."

All parents have been sent a letter from the local authority requesting co-operation for a Schools Language Survey, a project which will record the varied languages which some of Harrow's schoolchildren use in the home.

The letter is available in 10 languages, including Farsi and Punjabi. Mr Mann hopes to use the data to further the borough's multi-cultural educational policies.

Had it happened in the borough of Brent, it might have been listed as another piece of left-wing lunacy. But

Harrow is Conservative controlled and will take some dislodging from the top of the examination tree.

The local council embraced comprehensive education fully in 1974. Mr Mann says the message from school exam results is "unequivocal" in this respect: "At the very least they show that being comprehensive does you no harm."

Yet in spite of its academic acumen, Harrow, somewhat surprisingly, is a net exporter of pupils to independent schools (including the illustrious public school) and also to other education authorities.

"It is a crowning irony," Mr Mann said. "Apart from the one in eight that go to the private sector, we lose another 1,350 children to other boroughs. Some go to Barnet, Hertfordshire and Hillingdon."

"Surprisingly, many have gone to Brent although there's fair evidence that that is coming to an end. Parents and children are now migrating from Brent as well as teachers," he said.

Mr John Stanley, headmaster of Rooks Heath High School since September, said that it was an amenable borough in which to work.

(Photograph: Graham Wood)

Parental support behind the schools appears to be strong and the staffing situation is stable, offering a continuity that makes Harrow the envy of other London boroughs, Mr Stanley said.

But like Mr Mann he too could offer no clear explanation for Harrow's success.

"The danger though, with focusing solely on exam results is that you're saying to the less successful kid, 'you're worthless' if they don't make the grade," he said.

"I want children here to do well academically, but no one must think it's the only criterion. It isn't."

Rules on documents in trials to be relaxed

By Frances Gibb
Legal Affairs
Correspondent

The Government yesterday rejected criticisms that its plans to allow documents to "speak for themselves" in criminal trials will lead to "trials being conducted on paper."

Mr David Mellor, Minister of State at the Home Office, said that without the proposed reforms, prosecution of fraud and other serious crime could be frustrated.

He was responding to criticisms of the Government's proposals by the Haldane Society of Socialist Lawyers, which says that they will lead to "paper trials" with no need to call witnesses.

The plans, contained in the Criminal Justice Bill now before MPs in its committee stage, will in certain cases allow documents to be admitted as evidence without the need for the author to be in court.

At present documents can only be used as evidence of their contents in very limited circumstances. This can involve witnesses coming from abroad just so that a signed cheque can be used in evidence.

In line with recommendations by the Roskill committee on fraud trials, the Government intends to change the rules so that information in documents — which if given orally would not be ruled out as hearsay — can be admitted.

The changes would allow evidence to be taken on commission from abroad, without the witness needing to come to this country to a court hearing.

In his statement yesterday, Mr Mellor said the Bill contained a specific safeguard which ensures that with witness statements and statements made to the police, there is always a presumption that the witness will give evidence in person.

He said: "Fears of evidence which one would expect to be given by witnesses in person instead being presented in the form of written statements are therefore wholly misplaced."

Courts will retain their normal powers and duties to refuse to admit evidence if, for example, it is improperly obtained.



Mr John Mann, Harrow's director of education

New-look Liverpool Street gets underway

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

British Rail has begun the first stages of rebuilding Liverpool Street station in London, which is due to be completed in 1991.

The £100 million project is being financed from the proceeds of a huge property development, being built on the site of the old Broad Street station by Rosehaugh Stanhope, the developers. The first two phases are already occupied.

Mr Alan Etherington, project director for BR, said the cost of firmly planned developments would be about

£600 million. There are plans to develop nearly 3 million sq ft of office space on railway land, including the Broad Street site, and above Liverpool Street station.

Mr Etherington said that the entire scheme would yield a surplus for BR of several hundred million pounds in addition to meeting the cost of rebuilding Liverpool Street.

Part of the development will involve the construction of offices on a raft over several platforms at the station. The raft is due to be completed in September.

Graduate employment

Rosy job prospects for elite

By John Clare, Education Correspondent

Job prospects for graduates are apparently better now than at any time in the past five years and graduates are faring better than any other group in the jobs market.

The claims come in a survey published yesterday by the Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services.

It finds that the proportion of graduates in the workforce is rising and up to 40 per cent of vacancies are open to graduates of any discipline.

Starting salaries in September this year are likely to be 6 per cent higher than they were

last year generally and 10 per cent higher in the City. At present the average starting salary is £2,500.

Demand is strongest in the financial sector but there are also shortages of graduates in electronics, business studies, mathematics, computing and chemical and electrical engineering. The association says: "Subjects with a clear numerical content tend to have a better employment rate."

Conversely, the graduates "most likely to require flexibility and persistence in their approach to employment" are

arts, social science, chemistry or biology graduates.

A detailed study of the first destinations of the 115,000 men and women who graduated in England and Wales in the summer of 1985 shows that nearly 91 per cent had found a job within six months.

The unemployment rate was highest (about 20 per cent) among polytechnic graduates in history, English and sociology and among university graduates in art and design, psychology and sociology (about 15 per cent).

College chiefs accused of sex discrimination

A teacher training college refused to promote a highly-qualified academic because she was a woman, an industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

The male-dominated management "rigged" job requirements to favour a male applicant and appointed a man Director of School even though he was a more junior member of staff, the tribunal at Gloucester was told.

Dr Sylvia Huckleby, who claims that she was the victim of sex discrimination, told the hearing that the successful applicant had less experience. Her qualifications for the post at the College of St Paul

and St Mary in Cheltenham included a doctorate in philosophy and a Master of Education degree.

She said she was told by the college principal that the male lecturer had been successful because his background as a primary school headmaster made him a better administrator.

Dr Huckleby, aged 48, of Beckford, near Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, told the tribunal: "I felt I would have had no difficulty with the administrative side. I was already running a department that was bigger than some of the schools in the college."

The hearing continues.



This is the price of each share in British Airways. The price is payable in two instalments, 65p per share with your application and the remainder, 60p, this August. The minimum application is for 400 shares.

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the offer and an application form in the newspapers this Friday.

Those who have registered with the British Airways Share Opportunity office should receive their copies by this weekend. Applications must be received by 10am next Friday, February 6th.

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Copies of the full prospectus will be available from certain UK banks and stockbrokers and will be published in some newspapers on Friday 30th January. This advertisement is being published in the UK only. It does not constitute or form any part of any offer to sell or solicitation of any offer to buy any securities. ISSUED BY HILL SAMUEL & CO. LIMITED ON BEHALF OF B.M. GOVERNMENT.



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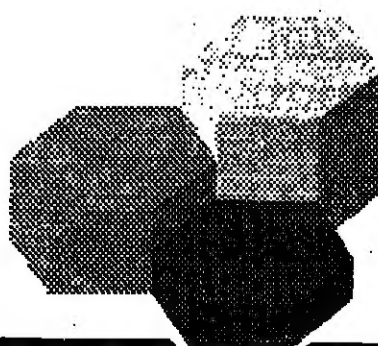
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Meeting rejected

The following is a list of the names of the persons who have been elected to the office of Justice of the Peace for the year 1900:

Zimbabwe

The first point of interest was the fact that the majority of the people who had been arrested were from the same area. This was due to the fact that the majority of the people who had been arrested were from the same area.



EEC to tackle Middle East

[illegible]

Spanish school

the Jose Moravia School under pressure to close today with the knowledge that the teachers' union has launched the strike. The school's move, then, was more than two months in the making. The move is a demonstration, says the teachers and union, of secondary schools as a vanguard of the revolution. The school had any children before the Christmas holidays.

WORLD SUMMARY

The Pope tackles world debt crisis

Rome (Reuters) — The Vatican took a unique step yesterday in the global debt crisis, issuing a document saying the West must rescue the Third World from bankruptcy. But it also warned debtor states that rash action by them could endanger the entire financial system.

The long-awaited document on debt was the Vatican's first dedicated exclusively to an economic topic. It said both the industrialized and developing nations were to blame for the debt crisis and must share in solving it. An "ethic of survival" was needed.

"Debt servicing cannot be met at the price of the asphyxiation of a country's economy and no government can morally demand of its people privations incompatible with human dignity," it said. But it served warning that payments defaults would carry the risk of a general crisis.

The document was prepared for the Pope by the Pontifical Commission on Justice and Peace. It ran to 5,000 words and was called "At the Service of the Human Community: An Ethical Approach to the International Debt Question." The Vatican said the situation called for new forms of international solidarity. Some countries would suffer severe damage if they failed to meet all their debt obligations.

Row over Palme case

Stockholm — The investigation into the assassination of Mr Olof Palme, the Swedish Prime Minister, flared into a major political row yesterday with a united opposition demanding a parliamentary inquiry into the unconventional methods of Mr Hans Holmström, the police chief in charge of the case (Christopher Mosey writes).

Mr Ingvar Carlsson, Mr Palme's successor, came under increasing pressure to either demand Mr Holmström's resignation or promote him off the case.

Last night Mr Holmström was in still deeper trouble after two of the three Kurds charged with complicity in the murder of a man at a political meeting in Stockholm in 1985 were freed by a court because of insufficient evidence.

Former MP dies: Mr Ove Rainer, the former Justice Minister who was forced to resign in November 1983 over a tax-avoidance scandal, has died after a short illness, aged 61.

Meeting rejected

Jerusalem — Mr Mordechai Vanunu, *The Sunday Times* nuclear informant who is awaiting trial for treason and espionage, yesterday refused to meet his girlfriend, Miss Judy Zimet, under conditions set by prison authorities (Ian Murray writes).

Miss Zimet said the conditions were that they meet with a screen between them and communicate only by writing letters which would be read beforehand by security personnel. Mr Vanunu is now in the 25th day of a hunger strike.

Chinese takeaway

Hong Kong — Thousands of Chinese people have been deprived of their chance to visit relatives in the People's Republic of China for the lunar new year, as three travel agencies have taken their money and shut up shop without supplying tickets (David Bonavia writes).

The recent arrival of a regular event here, where many people will flock to an agency offering bigger discounts on train and air tickets and sea passages, despite the risk of losing their money.

Zimbabwe summit

Harare — Mr Brian Mulroney, the Canadian Prime Minister, arrived in Zimbabwe yesterday for a warm welcome caused by his country's strong stand against South Africa (Jan Bardsley writes).

The high point of his four days here will be a summit meeting tomorrow at Victoria Falls where he and his host, Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister of Zimbabwe, will meet the leaders of two other Commonwealth and frontline states, Botswana and Zambia.

There Mr Mulroney will sign an agreement to fund a US\$50 million (£33 million) project to link the electrical grid shared by Zimbabwe and Zambia with Botswana, which now receives 40 per cent of its power from South Africa.



Double meaning

Hong Kong (Reuters) — Newspapers in Hong Kong have advised Sir David Wilson, the new Governor, left to change the Cantonese translation of his name, which comes perilously close to "hypocrite" to the extent of being dangerous.

A government spokesman said the advice would be conveyed to Sir David when he takes up his post in April.

EEC to tackle muddle of Middle East policy

From Andrew McEwen, Brussels

Europe's muddled state of mind over the Arab-Israeli conflict took a step towards clarity yesterday, but it also took several small ones deeper into confusion.

Mr Leo Tindemans, the Belgian Foreign Minister, announced that the EEC would try to make up its mind at a special meeting of the 12 foreign ministers next month.

The decision to hold such a conference was a less than welcome legacy of Britain's presidency of the EEC, inherited by Belgium on January 1.

Knowing that the issue exposes the deepest anxieties of the southern members, Belgium had been expected to put it off for as long as possible.

The foreign ministers will

focus on Jordan's suggestion that there should be an international conference on the Middle East. The idea has been reluctantly accepted by Israel after extracting an undertaking that nothing decided at the conference should be binding.

Mr Shimon Peres, Israel's Foreign Minister, is conducting a tour apparently designed to encourage European countries to take a lead.

He said yesterday that it was time for Europe to reconsider the Venice Declaration of 1980, which recognized the PLO as the representatives of the Palestinians in peace negotiations. He said it should be updated to reflect the fact that the PLO had ceased to be an effective organization.

Spanish schools chief bows to talks

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Spain's Education Minister, José María Barrio, has agreed under pressure to negotiate today with the leaders of a student protest movement which has disrupted the country's state education system for more than two months.

Madrid was the scene of further demonstrations yesterday by teachers and thousands of secondary school children, a vanguard of the estimated two million who have not had any schooling since before the Christmas holidays.

Several thousand pupils assembled in Puerta del Sol, Madrid's main square, protesting against last Friday's injury to a 14-year-old schoolgirl when national police fired what the authorities called

"intimidatory" shots. Four policemen have been suspended.

The schoolchildren chanted slogans calling for the dismissal of Señor José Barrio, the Interior Minister, and Señor Barrio.

Several hundred teachers held a rally outside the Education Ministry to protest that their pay and conditions were inferior to civil servants.

Señor Barrio's climb-down helped defuse the schoolchildren's protest. But six youths were arrested.

One day we shall be the ones taking decisions, today we are only beginning," read demonstrators' banners.

The Government of Señor Felipe González, the Prime

Minister, has now publicly conceded the underlying cause of the unrest is the bleak job prospects.

Señor Javier Solana, chief spokesman for the Government, admitted: "Perhaps the Government has lost contact with the streets and real society."

The Education Minister will today be offering a six-point negotiating programme to leaders of school leavers and other students.

The points include upgrading of professional training schemes and more scholarships to help less well-off children.

Señor Barrio has indicated his continued resistance to relaxing entrance conditions.

Waite's dangerous mission: 'I shan't go on doing it for ever'

By Paul Vallely

Terry Waite's unique career as a hostage negotiator began five years ago when he secured the release of four Britons held in Iran after Ayatollah Khomeini's revolution. It marked a new development — the conscious attempt to use the universalities of religion as a common denominator in a world where it was more normally a cause for hatred.

Since then 14 hostages have been freed at the intercession of the Archbishop of Canterbury's envoy, but at some personal cost.

"You can become too exposed: then you're no good to anyone. I shan't in any case go on doing it for ever. I've got no compulsion to go on and on, and I know I'm not superman," Mr Waite told *The Times* before he left on his latest mission to Beirut.

He made no secret of how wearing his role had been. He found particularly oppressive the publicity that accompanied it. It had become a private burden: "It is a terrible thing not being able to be a normal human being," he once said. He also feared that it could jeopardize his delicate role as a negotiator and even his personal safety.

Mr Waite was disturbed by the recent allegations that he was involved in the American arms deals with Iran over the Beirut hostages. "Obviously it's raised the stakes. Any action I now take is a calculated walk into a minefield. But I'm still the one person who has met the kidnappers face to face. I know their sensitivities."

"I can't allow myself to be deterred. I know when I embarked on all this that there would be difficulties: these are just more of them. There's no point in being intimidated. Only if I had something to hide would I be put off."

Terry Waite is an Anglican



Beirut university students protesting over Saturday's kidnapping of an Indian and three American professors.

layman. He was educated at the Church Army College in London and afterwards studied in the US, Louvain and Rome.

After working domestically in the Anglican Church he moved in 1968 to become an adviser to the first African Archbishop of Uganda. It was there that he first became involved in attempts to free some of those detained in camps.

Eight years in Rome, advising the Catholic Church on its missionary work, gave him good Italian (he already had school French) and fed his taste for travel, for taking church matters around the world instead of contemplat-

ing them while sitting at home.

The offer to him from Dr Robert Runcie, the Archbishop of Canterbury, came late in 1979. Since then, Mr Waite has been involved with hostage negotiations almost from the start, always, he insists, in response to specific appeals for help, whether from families or the church.

The qualities of a good negotiator, he told *The Times*, were: "Persistence, intuition, integrity, political neutrality, patience — of course — knowing when to retreat and when to advance and not being too disturbed by being caught in the political or military crossfire."

France joins European anti-terrorist pact

Brussels — M. Jacques Chirac, the French Prime Minister, announced yesterday that his Government will ratify the Council of Europe's anti-terrorism convention, which prevents terrorists from using political motivation as a defence against extradition (Our Diplomatic Correspondent writes).

His speech in Strasbourg to the 21-nation Council was seen as a bold move at a time when West Germany faces a hostage crisis over legal

proceedings involving an alleged Lebanese hijacker. The kidnapping of Germans in Beirut has been linked to Washington's application for the man's extradition.

France has not previously ratified the 9-year-old convention because of fears that it would undermine the right of political asylum.

M Chirac's move was seen in the context of his promise to "terrorize the terrorists" responsible for a wave of bombings in Paris last year.

Waite was aware he could be hostage

From Juan Carlos Guncio Beirut

Mr Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy, was aware that his latest mission in Lebanon faced growing possibilities of disaster when he buttoned his black leather jacket and quickly left the Riviera Hotel one week ago yesterday.

He was driven by Druze bodyguards to an undisclosed location in west Beirut, where it was assumed he would meet intermediaries in his effort to secure the release of Western hostages.

The bodyguards had the delicate mission of bringing Mr Waite to the men running the mysterious Islamic Jihad.

Hours before dropping out of sight, Mr Waite appeared convinced that his new round of contacts were often distracted by unexpected and disturbing new factors, such as the arrests of Mr Mohammed Ali Hamadi in Frankfurt, and Mr Bakhr Kadr in Milan.

Mr Hamadi, a Lebanese, is accused of hijacking a TWA jetliner in 1985. Mr Kadr was caught with explosives as he was about to board an aircraft on January 13, one day after Mr Waite arrived in Beirut.

"Some people here in Beirut are going to say: 'Well, the only way to get those people back, or one of them back, is to have some bargaining counter.' And I would be a pretty good bargaining counter," he told me in an interview on the Riviera's terrace the afternoon of January 19.

Twenty-four hours later, Mr Waite waved goodbye to his bodyguards and embarked on a mission that has already stirred alarm among Governments and the Church

'Terrorists' held in California

From Ivor Davis Los Angeles

US immigration authorities were seeking deportation orders yesterday for seven alleged members of a terrorist wing of the Palestine Liberation Organization who were rounded up early on Monday in three raids on communities around Los Angeles.

The FBI identified Mr Khader Mousa Hamide, aged 32, a Jordanian national, as the alleged leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), a splinter group of the PLO that has claimed credit for several terrorist attacks in Europe. Hamide and his wife, Mrs Julie Nyangiri Mungabb, aged 28, from Kenya, were arrested at their Glendale apartment early on Monday.

However, because of concerns in Washington that the news of the mass arrests might jeopardize the lives of hostages being held in the Middle East, virtually no details of the group's alleged activities in heavily-populated southern California, were revealed. The FBI cancelled a press conference on the arrests and stressed the suspects were all picked up on immigration charges, with no criminal charges planned at present.

The *Los Angeles Times* yesterday, quoting an FBI source, said the investigation into the group's activities began in March 1986 after the US bombing raids on Libya when George Habash, the Syrian-based leader of the Popular Front, vowed reprisal attacks against the US.

The seven who were arrested, their hands and legs in chains, were brought before a US immigration judge, where they were described as "security risks" by immigration officials who refused to comment further on the case.

Hamide and his wife were held in a Los Angeles jail pending a bail hearing today. The other five were transferred to a prison in San Diego because they were considered to be too dangerous to be held in Los Angeles, according to Mr Gary Silbiger, a lawyer representing the group.



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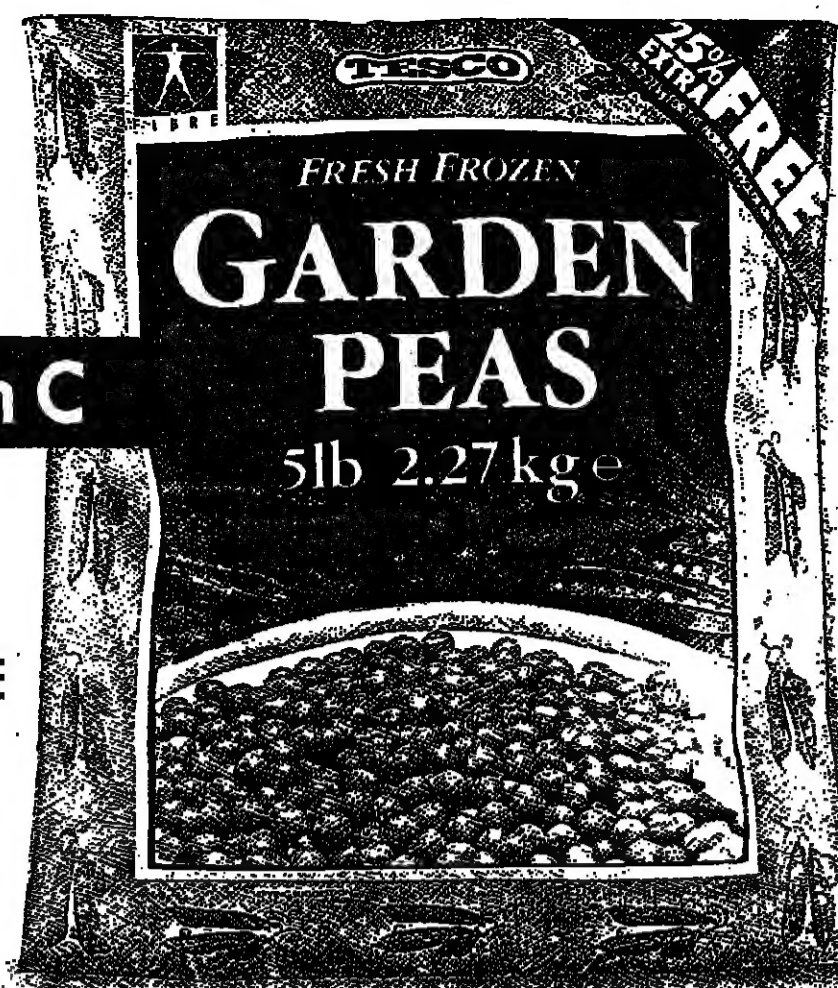
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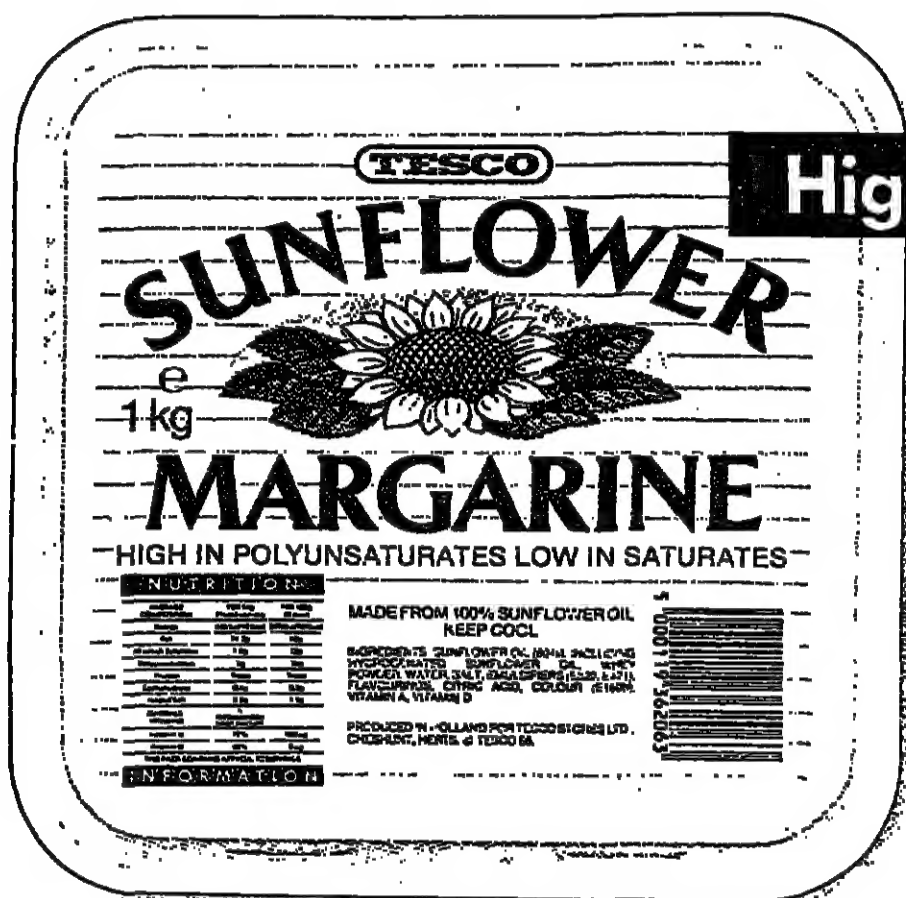


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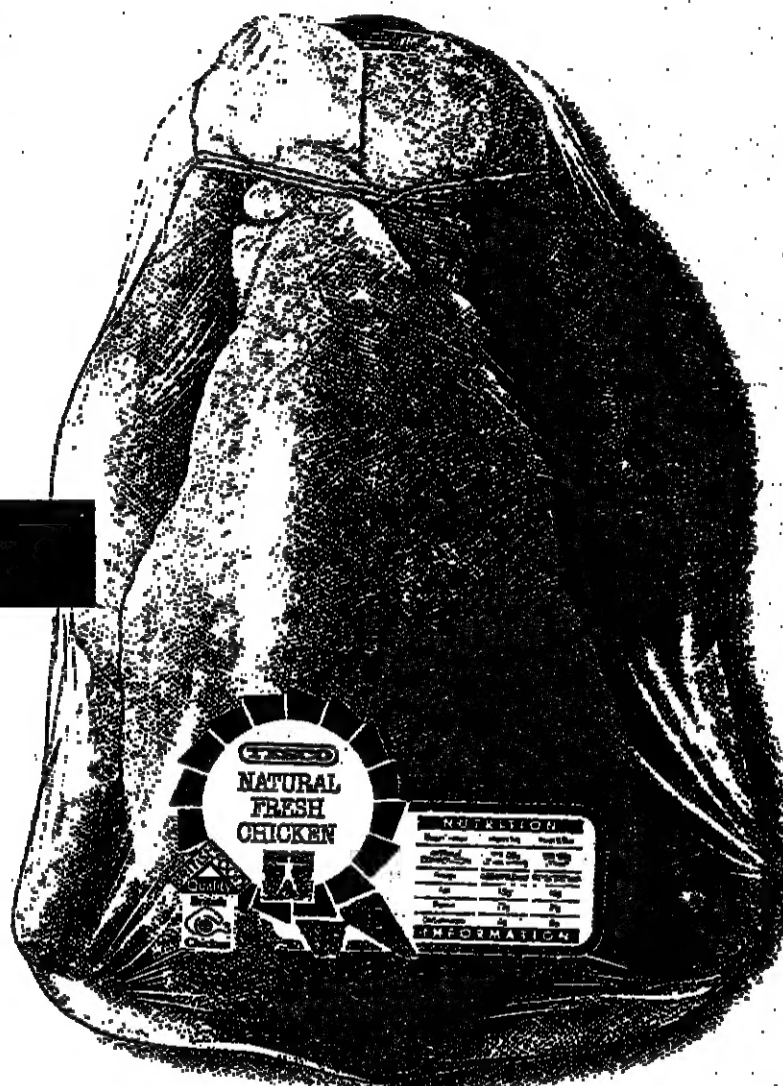


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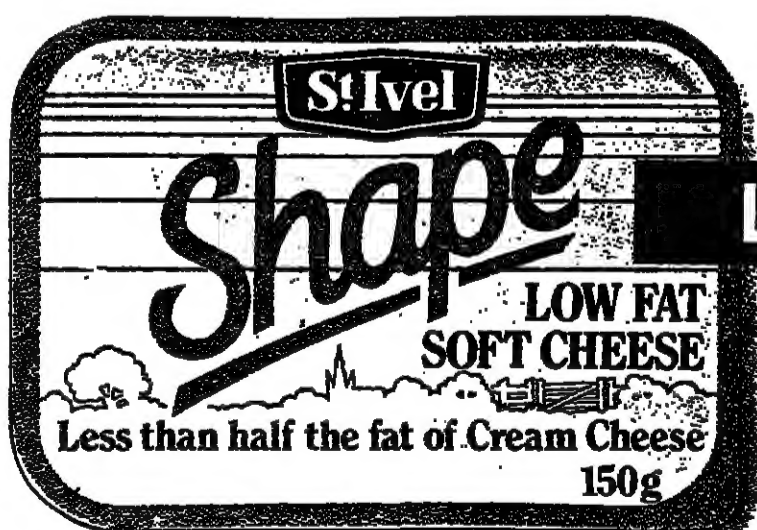
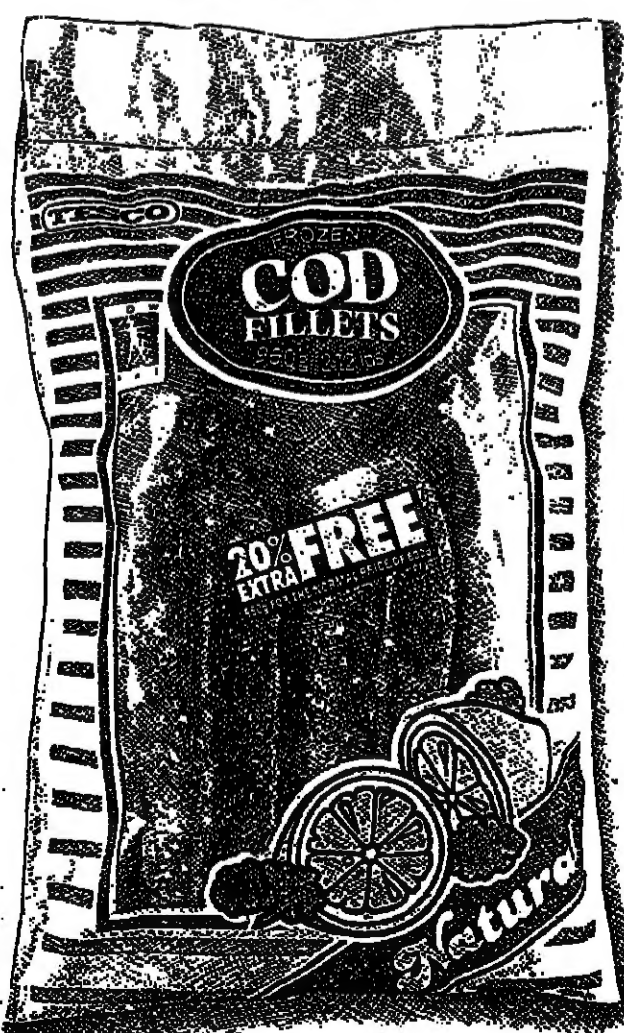
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The wind of change in Russia: • Leader's candour • Politburo criticism • Stalinism blamed

Savage critique of past failures of socialism rips into the Stalin era

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

In his marathon speech to the long-delayed session of the Soviet Communist Party's Central Committee, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev launched a savage critique of the past failures of Soviet society stretching back to the Stalin era in the 1930s and 1940s.

The speech, which ran to 130 pages on Tass, the official Soviet news agency, was designed to win greater support for his ambitious but slow-moving reform programme by exposing in graphic and self-critical fashion the severe ills in the running of the communist state that it is intended to overcome.

"We see that change for the better is taking place slowly, that the cause of reorganization is more difficult and the problems which have accumulated in society are more deep-rooted than we first thought," the Soviet leader admitted with a candour which was to mark his whole address.

"There is still some misunderstanding in society and in the party of the complexity of the situation in which the country finds itself. Perhaps this also explains questions from some comrades about the measures that are being taken by the Politburo and the Government in the course of the reorganization."

"We are often asked if we are not manoeuvring too sharp a turn."

In a dramatic break with the secrecy which has marked previous gatherings of the 307-strong Central Commi-

tee, a full text of Mr Gorbachev's remarks was issued promptly by Tass and the holding of the meeting announced on Moscow's domestic radio.

In addition to the strictures about the country's stagnation and moral degeneration under Brezhnev, Mr Gorbachev—who has been closeted in his country retreat for nearly

Dr Andrei Sakharov, the Soviet dissident, appealed in a statement to the European Security Conference yesterday for the release of all political prisoners in the Soviet Union and throughout the world (Reuters reports from Vienna). The statement, released as the Vienna follow-up meeting of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe resumed after its winter break, was brought to Vienna by US academics who visited Dr Sakharov in Moscow on Monday. "The release of prisoners of conscience in the Soviet Union would demonstrate that the process of liberalization of society is real, genuine."

three weeks preparing his speech—declared for the first time in public that the Soviet Union's massive problems had their roots in the Stalin era.

"The theoretical concepts of socialism remain to a large extent at the level of the 1930s and 1940s, when society was tackling very different tasks," he argued in his blistering denunciation of failures in the 1970s and early 1980s.

"Vigorous debates and creative ideas disappeared from theory and social sciences, while authoritarian evaluations and opinions became unquestionable truths that could only be commented upon."

The picture that he painted of life under Brezhnev was as critical as any likely to appear in a Western evaluation. "The spread of alcohol and drug abuse and a rise in crime became indicators of the decline of social mores," he told the committee members, many of whom had themselves risen to power at the time. "Disregard for laws, report-padding, bribe-taking and encouragement of toadyism and adulation had a deleterious influence on the moral atmosphere of society."

Mr Gorbachev claimed that during the period, the Kremlin had ignored escalating social problems and failed to meet housing, food and other basic requirements of the people. "Day to day practical activity was replaced with rule by decree, a show of efficiency and mountains of paperwork," he added caustically.

"Real care for people, for the conditions of their life and work and for social well-being were often replaced with political fixation—the mass distribution of awards, titles and prizes. An atmosphere of permissiveness was taking shape and exactingness, discipline and responsibility were declining."

Western observers said that the ferocity of Mr Gorbach-



Lenin

• Lenin's ideas of socialism were interpreted simplistically and their theoretical depth and significance were often left unemancipated



Stalin

• The theoretical concepts of socialism remain... at the level of the 1930s and 1940s when society was tackling very different tasks



Brezhnev

• Disregard for laws, report-padding, bribe-taking and encouragement of toadyism and adulation had deleterious influence

ov's lengthy denunciation of the past was added evidence of the internal resistance he is now meeting to his reform programme. "The language did not sound as though he was simply preaching to the converted," one diplomat told me.

Mr Gorbachev also alleged that the stagnation of the Brezhnev era had inflicted a serious blow to the creativity of Soviet culture, particularly literature and the arts. "Stereotypes from capitalist

mass culture, with its propagation of vulgarity, primitive tastes and spiritual callousness began to infiltrate Soviet society to an ever larger extent."

The speech was larded throughout with historical references to Lenin, with Mr Gorbachev trying to prove that his programme of sweeping reform was the true descendant of the 1917 Bolshevik revolution, rather than the direction which the Soviet Union had followed in subsequent years. "Lenin's ideas

of socialism were interpreted simplistically," he argued, "and their theoretical depth and significance were often left unemancipated."

The seriousness of last month's nationalist riots in Kazakhstan was underlined by the repeated references to past failures to put down nationalist sentiments in the country's 15 constituent republics—some of which were singled out by name for special attack in regard to Communist Party corruption.

In a reference to the activity of local party bodies, he declared angrily: "By no means all these organizations waged a resolute struggle against negative phenomena, permissiveness, mutual protectionism, slackening of discipline and the spread of drunkenness. Departmentalism, parochialism and manifestations of nationalism were not always properly rebuffed."

Mr Gorbachev proceeded to issue a spirited defence of the measures taken since he

came to power in March 1985, but emphasized that the process of transformation was only in its initial stage.

"We still have difficulties with trade in foodstuffs and manufactured goods, with urban transport and the utilities, with institutions of public health care and culture," he stated. "In short, we have not yet achieved fundamental changes in the development of the social sphere and remain largely in the power of old approaches."

Machel jet 'downed by decoy'

Moscow (Reuters)—A senior Soviet civil aviation official said yesterday that sabotage caused the plane crash that killed President Samora Machel of Mozambique last October and suggested South Africa was involved.

Ivan Vasin, Deputy Civil Aviation Minister, told a news conference that the Soviet Tupolev-134 aircraft had been lured off course by false information from a beacon.

The plane, heading for Maputo, turned west instead of east and crashed inside South African territory. Mr Vasin denounced the conclusions of a judicial inquiry in Johannesburg and said Western reports aimed to fan "anti-Soviet hysteria".

A British radar expert ruled out the decoy-beacon theory, saying the plane's Soviet crew had most likely turned their VOR, or Very High Frequency Omni-directional Range, beacon by mistake on a frequency in Swaziland.

But Mr Vasin said tests on flight equipment by experts from the Soviet Union, Mozambique and South Africa proved that the plane's systems were tuned to the VOR frequency of Maputo. "The equipment showed the crew that the plane was close to the airport," he said. "False information was given to the plane. This can only have come from another false beacon."

Shortly after the crash a Mozambican Boeing 737 was found to be following a false course parallel to that of the Tupolev. Remnants of a camp were found near the crash site.

Mr Vasin ruled out the possibility that alleged sabotage may have been carried out from Maputo airport which, he said, was not equipped with ground navigational devices.

Mr R F "Pik" Botha, South African Foreign Minister, said the claim that the country had installed a false radio beacon was a lie.

China hint of thaw in border row

From Robert Grieses Peking

A slight warming trend in Sino-Soviet relations may become a thaw next month when representatives of both countries meet in Moscow to discuss ways to resolve differences over their common border.

Mr Igor Rogachov, the Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister, and Mr Qian Qichen, the Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister, are scheduled to meet in Moscow on February 9 to discuss areas that straddle the Heilong Jiang River, which separates Manchuria from Siberia.

Moscow and Peking split over ideological differences in the early 1960s. Negotiations resumed last autumn following a seven-year hiatus that occurred in the wake of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Another round of talks is scheduled for April.

At that time Mr Mikhail Kapitsa, the Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister, said that Moscow was willing to make concessions.

During his visit to Peking at the same time, however, Mr Rogachov failed to win concessions on any of the negotiating positions. At the airport on his way home he said: "The issues are impossible to solve at one meeting."

This time around, the Chinese attitude may be different. Chinese Communist Party officials are stressing the primacy of the party above all other spheres of life.

Another key factor is China's relations with the US, which may be deteriorating, according to diplomats here. The student demonstrations that swept China last month appeared to have been inspired in part by American-style democracy.

Some diplomats say that China's leaders are now reacting by turning toward the Soviet Union.

Kenya tourist firms hit by radio licence curbs

From A Correspondent, Nairobi

A surprise order by the Kenya Government revoking all private radio transmission licences with immediate effect has caused consternation among operators of light aircraft and tourist game lodges. Clarification is being sought urgently from the Kenya Posts and Telecommunications Corporation.

At the same time, private airlines and tourist operators have been informed that all airstrips in Samburu district, north of Nairobi, have been temporarily closed. This is preventing light aircraft at the height of the tourist season from ferrying tourists to game lodges in the popular Samburu and Buffalo Springs reserves. Alternative arrangements have been made to transport visitors by road from Isiolo, where another airfield is open.

Light aircraft continue to operate throughout Kenya, but are only communicating with air traffic controllers at

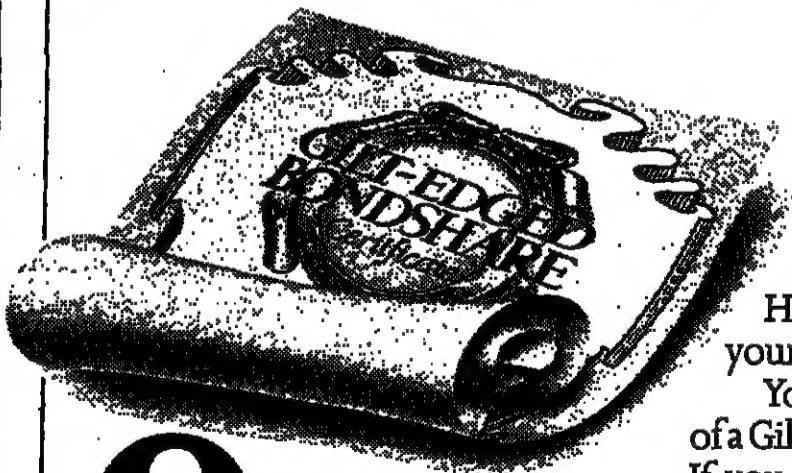
Government airports, and no longer speaking to their companies on the ground. Flights to smaller landing fields such as "bush" airstrips are now in doubt, as some pilots have reported seeing some smaller airstrips being ploughed up to prevent landings.

The Government has given no reason for these restrictions, but some observers here are linking them with a speech made by President Daniel Arap Moi last week, when after reacting angrily to criticism of Kenya by a US Congressman, Mr Harold Wolpe, he accused an unnamed international organization of subversion under the guise of development work in Samburu district.

He said this organization had built an airstrip there and installed a powerful radio transmitter. He added, however, that normal radio equipment for internal communication would still be allowed.

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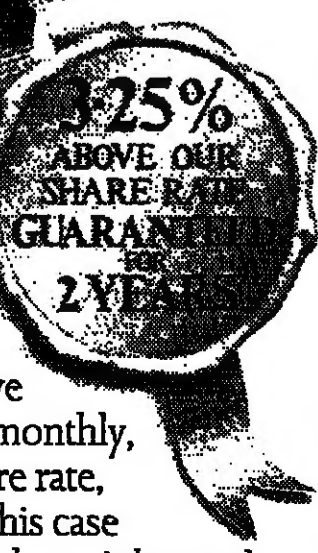
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Court battle over \$10,000 child

Baby M trial in US will decide legal future of surrogate motherhood

From Charles Bremner, New York

For the first time since American women began selling their services as surrogate mothers a decade ago, a law court has been asked to rule on the legality of the controversial practice. At the centre of the landmark trial in Hackensack, New Jersey, is a 10-month-old blue-eyed girl known to the courts as Baby M.

The child's natural mother, Mrs Mary Beth Whitehead, 29, has asked the court for custody of the baby she calls Sara although she signed a contract before conception to hand her over to the father for a fee of \$10,000 (about \$25,000).

On the other side of the bitter legal struggle, the father, Mr William Stern, aged 40, a biochemist, and his wife, a paediatrician, are seeking to hold Mrs Whitehead to the terms of the arrangement under which she was artificially inseminated with his sperm and gave birth to the baby that they call Melissa.

"I'm just a mother who wants her child," Mrs Whitehead said. "I don't care what they do." The Sterns, who spent more than \$20,000 (£13,000) tracing the Whiteheads after they fled to Florida, accuse Mrs Whitehead of reneging on a contract that stated she would not "form or attempt to form a parent-child relationship with any child... she may give birth to".

Some 500 American babies have been born under similar arrangements over the past 10 years and a few of the mothers have changed their minds like Mrs Whitehead, but the cases were settled outside the courts.

The Baby M trial marks the first time a judge has had to grapple with the tangle of ethical and legal uncertainties that surround the issue and supporters and opponents of "collaborative reproduction" have drawn up battle lines.

For example, New Jersey Catholic Bishops have denounced it as reducing children to a commodity while the Los Angeles Centre of Surrogate Parenting say the case threatens their "legal and political standing". "We are women who enjoy being pregnant," said a spokesman, Miss Jan Sutton. Critics say surrogate contracts amount to baby buying from poor women.

Seeing her, holding her, it overpowered me. I had to keep her

by well-off couples able to afford the average costs of over \$25,000.

Legal experts say Baby M could even prove relatively simple compared with the nightmarish implications that would be raised by cases involving test tube babies. Last November Los Angeles doctors announced the pregnancy of a surrogate mother who was implanted with a test tube embryo from the sperm and egg of a paying couple.

The New Jersey judge, Mr Harvey Sorkow, heard a first round of evidence earlier this month and the trial resumes next week. He is trying first to decide on the validity of the Baby M contract before tack-

ling the issue of whether or not a mother's rights prevail over those of the father in such a commercial transaction. Although his ruling will affect only one state, it could signal the fate of surrogate agencies that have sprung up across the country to sell mother's services for a profit. According to opinion polls, a strong majority of the public believe that a couple should have the right to pay for a surrogate mother's services.

The Sterns have attracted public sympathy with their obvious attachment to the baby, who lives with them now and meets her natural mother for several hours a month in a state facility. Mrs Stern, 41, has testified that she had been advised against motherhood because she had suffered mild multiple sclerosis.

The couple chose Mrs Whitehead as an apparently ideal mother. She already had two children and had offered her services through a New York agency stating her wish to carry a stranger's child as "the most loving gift of happiness". The Sterns and the Whiteheads met frequently and made plans together for the baby's birth, but relations became strained as the day approached. Mrs Whitehead said emotion overwhelmed her after the birth on March 27. "Seeing her, holding her, it overpowered me. I had no control. I had to keep her."

Mrs Whitehead, a housewife whose husband works as a dustman, has refused to accept the \$10,000 fee. The trial is expected to last for weeks or perhaps months.



Guillermo Suarez Mason, the former Argentinian general accused of torture and murder, leaving the Federal Building in San Francisco yesterday after extradition proceedings.

Sanctions pressure fails to change Pretoria thinking

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Economic sanctions against South Africa have failed to bring about early political change, and indeed have had the reverse effect, according to a report submitted to the annual plenary session of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference (SACBC) in Pretoria.

Mr Noel Bruyns, a spokesman for the conference, said yesterday that the report — by a commission on economic pressures set up last year by the SACBC — would now be evaluated by the bishops but no decision would be taken on it at this session, which began on January 20 and is due to end today.

To date, the SACBC has not adopted a clear position on the sanctions issue. In a pastoral letter issued on May 1 1986, the bishops said they believed "economic pressure has been justifiably imposed to end apartheid".

They also expressed concern, however, about the additional suffering such action might cause.

The Catholic Church has been notably more hesitant about supporting calls for economic sanctions than the Anglican Church under the leadership of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who openly advocates both disinvestment and punitive trade sanctions against Pretoria.

"As anticipated, the whole issue of economic pressures has clearly had a totally counter-productive effect on government thinking," the SACBC report says. "The whole sanctions issue has consolidated Government in its retreat from meaningful, and indeed any, reform."

Most whites, it says, are sympathetic to the efforts being made by Pretoria to overcome the effects of sanctions, and less attention is being paid to the issues that led to the imposition of sanctions in the first place.

Sanctions is not the only controversial subject to have come before the plenary session. Many delegates last week were upset when Archbishop Jan Meeus, the Apostolic Delegate, apparently with the Pope's authority, urged the clergy to stay out of politics.

This drew a riposte from Archbishop Denis Hurley, the head of the Catholic Church in southern Africa, who said that a distinction had to be drawn between the church's promoting social and political morality and actually becoming involved in the pursuit of power.

"Whenever the Holy Father says to priests and bishops, 'keep out of politics', our friends on the right say, 'there you are, we've told you, stop talking as you do',"

About a dozen Catholic officials, including Father Smangiso Mkhathshwa, the SACBC's secretary-general, are in prison under South Africa's strict security and emergency laws because of their opposition to apartheid.

About 2,000 people attended a special mass for Father Mkhathshwa in a black township during the session. According to the 1980 census, the Roman Catholic Church has some 2.3 million members and the largest black African membership of the racially integrated English-speaking churches in South Africa.

45 dead as torrential rains hit São Paulo

São Paulo, Brazil (Reuter) — At least 45 people have been killed and some 6,000 made homeless after torrential rains battered the city.

Heavy rains yesterday hit much of São Paulo state and large areas of the sprawling metropolis, the country's industrial and financial centre, lay under water.

The river Tiete, which runs near one of the city's main highways, burst its banks and hundreds of motorists abandoned their vehicles.

Illicit liquor proves fatal

New Delhi (AP) — Eight people died in Madras in southern India after drinking illicit liquor, and at least 25 other people were being treated in hospitals.

This was the first liquor tragedy since January 1 when the state government imposed partial prohibition in Tamil Nadu state.

Climbed out

Hamburg (Reuter) — A 47-year-old East German metalworker climbed border fortifications near Osterode, in the Harz mountains, and crossed unharmed into West Germany.

Quake death

Algiers (AFP) — An earthquake measuring 5.1 points on the Richter scale left one person dead, seven injured and 923 homeless in the El Abadia region of north-western Algeria.

Born survivor

Brisbane (Reuter) — A newborn baby boy survived for three days attached to the umbilical cord of his mother who died giving birth at home.

Deadly aerial

Dhaka (Reuter) — A Bangladeshi television fan was electrocuted and at least a dozen other people have received electric shocks while trying to rig up makeshift aerials to view programmes on Indian television.

Two executed

Tehran (Reuter) — Two Kurdish rebels were executed in public in the north-western Iranian town of Takab following charges of armed struggle and complicity in murder.

Afghan ceasefire 'being broken daily'

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

As the ceasefire in Afghanistan comes to the end of its second week, Western diplomats report daily breaches by the rebel Mujahidin, and a growing number of incidents in which the Afghan regime itself is reopening fire.

The hotel complex houses the local television station, but nearby buildings also hit by rebel rockets included the area's military and secret police headquarters.

The same source also reported that the day before the ceasefire was to take place Mujahidin rebels who control many of the areas of the town went round calling for a general strike to protest against it. The strike on

January 18 government artillery began pounding known rebel positions.

The hotel complex houses the local television station, but nearby buildings also hit by rebel rockets included the area's military and secret police headquarters.

The same source also reported that the day before the ceasefire was to take place Mujahidin rebels who control many of the areas of the town went round calling for a general strike to protest against it. The strike on

January 15 was 100 per cent successful.

A Soviet convoy bringing supplies of fuel to the beleaguered city was protected during the ceasefire period by artillery fire aimed at rebel positions along its route.

In Kabul, diplomats also report a number of artillery firings by government forces. They also have observed the movements of large quantities of ammunition on open trailers. The movement of munitions is forbidden under the ceasefire terms.

The diplomats also say that claims by the Afghan Government that rebel bands are taking advantage of the offered amnesties are suspect.

One embassy reports that an Afghan source in southern Kabul came across a line of 20 buses containing what police described as village militia men from Lalanda. Later the same men were presented on television as Mujahidin who had offered to turn themselves in, and were addressed at a public meeting by Dr Najib, the Afghan leader, the next night.

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Widespread coup attempt defeated in Philippines

Aquino vows tough action against rebel troops

From David Watts
Manila

President Corason Aquino of the Philippines threatened severe action against some 300 to 400 rebellious troops as the most widespread military insurrection yet against her Government was gradually broken up last night.

As the rebellious troops were still occupying a television station and part of an air base, Mrs Aquino went on television yesterday afternoon to warn those still holding out: "The full force of the law will be applied to everyone, civilians and military, who is implicated in this crime."

"I have ordered their arrest and detention. There is a time for reconciliation and a time for justice and retribution. That time has come."

While General Fidel Ramos, Chief of Staff of the armed forces, tried to play down the significance of what he called disruption by "a very small handful of misguided officers and men", it became clear that a comprehensive operation had been aimed against two army bases in Manila and two air bases.

Some of those involved figured in the July takeover of the Manila Hotel by Mr Arroyo Tolentino, President Ferdinand Marcos's running mate in the elections of February 1986. No one was prosecuted after that incident, when some 300 military held the hotel for 48 hours. At least five officers involved in the present incident took part in the earlier attempted coup.

Mrs Aquino said in her statement: "This attempt reflects the inability of some elements both in the military and in the civilian sector to face the fact that civilian government is here to stay and that nothing will deal our effort to establish full constitu-



Supporters of former President Marcos taunting government troops, left, near a television station held by defiant troops in Manila while a rebel soldier inside cheers them on.

tional democracy in the coming plebiscite. Let me make myself clear: We shall not treat this like the Manila Hotel incident."

Mrs Aquino has clearly decided that the line must be drawn somewhere if there is not to be a stream of coups and rumours of coups. But by coming down hard on some elements of the military who some would see as idealistic, she risks splitting the armed forces.

A senior Manila judge said he had evidence that political figures had been involved. "It's not just misguided adventurers in the military. There were discussions in certain places with direct links to political figures. I have very detailed evidence with

personalities, vehicles and plate numbers."

As darkness fell last night the only unit defying the Government were some 100 men under Colonel Oscar Canlas, and a number of civilians at the Channel 7 broadcasting station, where all water and electricity had been cut off while negotiations on the men's surrender continued.

Colonel Canlas is a disgruntled Air Force officer whose views reflect a widespread opinion of the Aquino Government that it is moving to the left, is soft on communism and is burdened with incompetent ministers.

Interviewed over the telephone as crowds of Marcos and Aquino supporters threw

chunks of pavement at each other outside, Colonel Canlas said: "We are not Marcos loyalists. We are not here because we support Marcos. Please tell that to the people outside. We are here fighting for democracy. We are fighting for our children. We want them free from the clutches of the influence of communism."

Armed troops ringed the roof of the station and a sign erected over a side road said: "Cory Aquino step down. We don't need you. We hate you, go to hell."

Police moved in troops armed with tear gas at lunchtime. Minutes later pandemonium broke out when shooting started from the roof and

police drenched the area with tear gas. The police fled the scene even faster than most of the civilians to take cover behind cars and police vehicles. Several people were injured but it was not clear whether by gunfire or flying concrete.

If the soldiers claimed they were not Marcos supporters there was no doubt about views of the civilians outside. "Marcos exercised democracy. He exercised maximum tolerance," said Mrs Aurora Zarrosa, a housewife. "I've heard abroad they are saying that we don't love Marcos, but it's not true. We are waiting for him desperately."

A civilian who escaped from the television station told *The Times* that there had

been a telephone conversation with Mr Marcos in exile in Hawaii the previous night, but that he had not been told of the impending coup attempt.

"Things are much worse than they were before. If she is not capable of unifying the country, what's the point," said Mr Berry Martinez, a student of the Ateneo University law school, normally a pro-Aquino university.

"Many crises have erupted again. Events speak for themselves. The National Democratic Front (the Communist grouping) is back in the hills. And there is a crisis of faith in the present Government," he said. "Even if the constitution is ratified, stability will not necessarily ensue."



Mrs Aquino has to draw the line against coups.

Cities vie to host Democrat convention

From Christopher Thomas
Atlanta

Atlanta, the sterile boomtown of the South, is campaigning ferociously to bring the Democratic Party's national convention to the city next year. Enormous amounts of time, status and money are at stake.

Houston, which shares Atlanta's distinction of being utterly without character, is the main rival. It is also going to great lengths to lure the Democrats. The Republicans, to the dismay of both cities, decided to go to New Orleans.

Atlanta has one big problem: The Omni can seat only 15,327 people. Houston's George R. Brown Convention Centre, due for completion in September, will be able to handle 20,000. But Houston also has a problem: a strike has cast doubt on the construction schedule.

Key members of the Democratic National Committee will be lured at a reception at Austin next weekend as part of efforts to get Houston selected. Atlanta is throwing a party in Washington this week in which Mayor Andrew Young, Georgia's congressman and other dignitaries will give the hard-sell to the Democrats.

Mayor Young has mailed a video cassette of himself to every member of the site selection committee, reminding them of the city's commitment to Democrats and the state's almost unblemished Democratic pedigree.

Houston, in contrast, last year elected a Republican governor. And Republicans have won Texas in three of the last four presidential elections.

The Democrats' decision will be announced on February 10.



Shuttle disaster anniversary

Nasa aims to lead space race again

From Mohs Ali, Washington

The twin launch pads stand empty at Cape Canaveral, a sad reminder of the Challenger disaster which tore the heart of America. The three remaining sister shuttles — Columbia, Discovery and Atlantis — sit in their hangars with little to do.

A year after the Challenger — on its 10th mission — exploded in a fireball over the Atlantic, Nasa is still trying to restore its reputation for technical excellence and put together a safer and more cost-effective space programme.

The battered space agency will mark today the first anniversary of the tragedy with a simple memorial service at the Arlington National Cemetery, where the crew of five men and two women, including schoolteacher Christa McAuliffe, were buried last May near the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Challenger lifted off its pad at 11.38 on a freezing morning. But the \$1.5 billion shuttle was destroyed 73 seconds into flight when flames leaped through a faulty seal in its 149-ft right-side booster rocket. It took months for a presidential investigating commission to determine what happened in the worst disaster of space flight history.

The cost was incalculable. It abruptly halted Nasa's programme of 23 flights a year by 1990 for launching billions of dollars worth of American and foreign communication satellites and carrying out scientific and medical research.

For the 22,000 Nasa employees across America, the grounding of the remaining orbiters has meant a more cautious and less ambitious space programme than they had hoped for before Challenger took off on the agency's 25th shuttle flight.

But Dr James Fletcher, Nasa's Administrator, is confident that the US will return

to the US returns to shuttle flights.

With the Soviets space competition in mind, Dr Fletcher said last week: "It is unthinkable the US would consider not being Number One in space. We need not be Number One in every detail. Space is a visible sign of how well a country is doing."

Last August 15, President Reagan ordered the building of a fourth shuttle to replace the Challenger, and in a big policy

shift also announced that



Nasa no longer would launch commercial satellites, except those which have national security or foreign policy implications. He said that private American corporations would become highly competitive in launching commercial satellites by expendable rockets.

Nasa would concentrate on deploying military payloads, science and medical programmes and on building a permanently manned space station for research.

Nasa, however, plans to honour 44 existing contracts for deploying commercial communication satellites, 15 of which could be launched by the end of 1992.

The West European Ariane rocket, the only other viable commercial space launch capacity at present, is fully booked for some time. But competition from China and the Soviet Union is expected to grow.

Private American industry also remains keen to exploit commercially the unique environments of space through using the shuttle for medical and scientific experiments.

On an emotional nationwide wave of support for the space programme, President Reagan and Congress have approved building a replacement for the Challenger at a cost of \$3.2 billion (£2 billion). The Administration has also proposed a new budget of \$9.48 billion for the fiscal year beginning on October 1. This is about a \$1 billion increase over the previous 12 months.

The new budget includes \$767 million for a permanent manned space station, a scheme that would cost at least \$8 billion when completed in the 1990s.

Meanwhile, talks are taking place between the 14-nation European Space Agency and the US about a joint space station project.

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THE ARTS

Malice remains in doubt

Everybody loves a sailor, but not as much as they love a good conspiracy theory. Rex Bloomstein's film *Attack on the Liberty* (ITV) combined the two in a compelling investigation into this event which took place during 1967 Six Day War.

Described as "the ugliest ship in the navy" and therefore easily identifiable, the neutral USS *Liberty* was cruising off the coast of Egypt when, on the fourth day, she was subjected to a storm of

TELEVISION

Israeli bombs, napalm and torpedoes leaving 34 dead and 174 wounded. Although the American government formally accepted the Israeli's claim that this was all a terrible mistake, many maintain that the Israeli were quite aware of what they were doing.

Bloomstein's film induced considerable sympathy for the latter view, using contemporary footage of the war at play to contrast with the testimonies of the new adolescent survivors. "There were men crying and in panic and calling for their mothers", remembered the ship's doctor, while others described feelings of bewilderment and impotence at being part of a major game-plan of which they were unaware.

Incriminated by their confusion over what actually happened that day, the Israeli interviewees, including the former head of the Israeli Navy, played into Bloomstein's hands. Such comments as "I remember the command 'Go On - there was a Go On but I don't remember in which order'" when spoken by the man with his finger on the torpedo button, contributed to a charting of errors on both sides, but could only at very best be attributed to colossal incompetence.

Those in favour of the conspiracy theory would subscribe to the view that the Israeli were determined to eliminate a potentially destructive source of eavesdropping; but, moving and intriguing as this documentary was, it fell just short of convincing me of that.

The Americans were the target for another kind of attack in *The Maclean-Henderson Show* (Channel 4). However, this time round, the video character's wisecracks were not half as sharp as the cut of his shoulder-pads, so the country of Liberty, Fraternity and Laurel and Hardy escaped in relatively good shape.

Alexandra Shulman

● *Largo Desolato*, the latest work of Vaclov Havel, Czechoslovakia's most prominent playwright, receives its British premiere at the Orange Tree, Richmond, opening on February 6 (with a preview the previous evening). The play, the seventh by Havel to be presented at the Orange Tree, has been adapted for the English stage by Tom Stoppard.

Brave display of empire in its death-throes

GALLERIES

John Russell Taylor reviews the major new exhibition of *Russian Style 1700-1920* at the Barbican, to be inaugurated by the Duchess of York tonight

in Moscow and St Petersburg as well as, through Diaghilev, in the West.

The drift of influence went, naturally, both ways. In the earlier part of the period it was mostly, as far as the clothes of courtiers and prosperous city folk were concerned, an influx from the West: learning from Paris and London was very much a part of Peter the Great's plans for modernizing his empire, and the extent of Russian imports of talent and ideas can be seen as clearly in this show as in the current Paris exhibition at the Grand Palais, *La France et la Russie au siècle des lumières*, or last year's show of *Gold and Silver Treasures from the Hermitage* at the Thyssen-Bornemisza foundation in Lugano.

The earlier costumes at the Barbican are in fact primarily of historical interest, giving a context to the emergence of something that may properly be called "Russian Style" as the 19th century progressed. The real glory of the show comes after about 1860, when the ools and hats are bound to begin with a series of stunning crinolines, dresses combining exquisite line with amazingly controlled use of intricate ornament. Many of these, it transpires, were intended for the determinedly emergent middle classes, and indeed they look wearable as well as elegant.

It is arguable if the same could be said about the resplendent court costumes of the later 19th century. It must have

needed an army of servants and attendants to have got the grandees into these clothes and then ensured that they could actually, within strict limits, have lived and moved in them. But they certainly make a brave display of the Russian empire in its death-throes.

It is intriguing to consider by what routes these amazing relics of the fled aristocracy arrived in the Hermitage collection: most, it appears, were acquired after the Revolution, but whether from aristocrats who stayed on and changed their ways, or from mountains of the officially confiscated and privately looted, is not revealed. A window on a vanished world, at least, these gorgeous garments undoubtedly represent, and it is touching as well as paradoxical to see how immaculately they are cared for by the children of a regime which must be diametrically opposed to all that they stand for.

In a more private sector, the Hermitage's holdings of the clothes worn by rich and middle-class at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries are very advantageously displayed. Sometimes the label indicates Paris workmanship, but by this time the elegant Russian lady was wearing clothes related to but noticeably different from those of her west European sister: there is a distinct taste for high collars and trimmings which betray one eye knowingly trained on what the well-appointed peasant was wearing. This tendency reaches its apogee in the extraordinary costumes assigned to humbler court functionaries, such as the outfit in golden yellow damask, fringed and flounced and garnished with enormous strings of imitation pearls, which fell to the lot of a *Manzha* or court wet-nurse.

Whichever way you look, there is beauty and extravagance and the most delicate workmanship imaginable. All too easy, admiring all this, to forget the sufferings of the peasants and how many little old ladies went blind in sweat-shops to produce these results. Which is not to say that it was all worth it, but rather to observe that a great wrong clearly from time to time produced a little right.



High collar and trimmings: Portrait of Princess Z.N. Yusupova by François Flameng (1894)

The reassertion of femininity

Richard Morrison meets the soprano Josephine Barstow, who sings the title-role in Jonathan Miller's production of *Tosca* which opens at the Coliseum tonight



Josephine Barstow as a classical Forties Tosca

"I didn't have any sympathy with Tosca to begin with. Perhaps I was a bit of a snob, but I did not find her interesting. Well, to be frank, I found her stupid. Now I realize that, although she isn't highly endowed with intelligence, she does have a great deal of charm, hot-blooded passion and - above all - femininity. In fact one of the problems is to keep reasserting her femininity in the very difficult situations in which she finds herself. When she becomes a murderer, for instance."

In this respect, though, Barstow believes Puccini has provided some shrewd insights into the female psyche. "There is her wonderful behaviour when Scarpia dies. Tosca has killed him, yet her immediate reaction is to revert to forgiveness; she does not allow the possibility that he has tricked her ever to cross her mind. In fact she sings

the story more immediately for us; the events are now within the lifetime of many, and within the scope of history familiar from what people see in films and on television.

Moreover, it enables us to make an important point about the treatment of the individual whenever a group of people misuse power. I think this production is more likely to join you into remembering that people are still being tortured today. Jonathan is trying to transmit a message with this piece. He's trying to say: *Admiralty International* is still there, and has to be still there, because this kind of thing is still going on. And that's a point well worth making."

Barstow's operatic career so far has been a remarkable and judicious mixture of daring eclecticism and concentration on a few soprano roles for which she is in constant international demand: *Salome*, *Lady Macbeth* and *Violetta* notably. She still learns three or four new parts each season, and her record in contemporary opera is outstanding: she has sung in either the world or British premieres of such operas as *The Ice Break*, *We Come to the River*, *The Devils of Loudun*, *The Bassarids* and - last year - Penderick's *Die schwarze Maske* in Salzburg. "I would get very bored, just trailing a narrow repertoire round the world, as some do," she says. "The great pity with new operas is that you spend a big chunk of your life learning them, and you never do them again. But I do think it is a duty of the active singer to have a go at the stuff that is being created at the time."

How does she prepare for a role like *Salome*, which she has sung dozens of times? How receptive was she to yet another producer with a "concept"? "Well, you cannot pretend you are leaving all your past experience behind when you start on a new production, and you shouldn't anyway; in a sense this experience is partly what the people who employ you are paying for. So at times you have to say to a producer: 'I tried it that way before, and it doesn't work.'"

"But I'm much more amenable to being 'moulded' now."

For instance, I used to have 'dances' for *Salome*, with special veils to fit, and simply say to each new producer: 'Look, don't worry about the dance; I have my own and here are my veils that fit it.' Well, after about two or three times, I thought this is stupid. So now I've discarded it, and whenever I go I learn a new dance. It's only fair to a new production.

"Mind you, it's awful having to rework that bloody dance over and over. I mean, the older you get the harder it gets. But you have to keep reminding yourself of your ideals, of why you came into the business in the first place. 'Opera is such a difficult medium, it works so rarely. You'll occasionally get a shot in the arm, like singing *Fidelio* with the Vienna Philharmonic, or performing with someone who really acts well, or just those odd moments that simply happen between you and the audience. But there are a whole lot of things that chip away not only at your confidence but at your resolve to continue to do what you set out to do.'"

If Barstow does ever become demoralized, which seems an unlikely prospect, she can always retire to the Sussex farm which she and her husband (the director Andre Anderson) now run, and where she indulges in her exotic hobby of breeding Arabian horses. Is that profitable? "No," she laughs. "There's no money in it at all. Actually I have to keep singing to pay for it."

THEATRE

Road Royal Court

Jim Cartwright's scorching, bang-up-to-the-minute play is a State of the Nation piece with a vengeance. What form the vengeance will take is still unclear but, if the author's super-real creation of life on society's scrap heap is to be trusted, then vengeance will come for sure. "Road to Nowhere" is implied in the title but, on the route, drink, sex and slugging off can fill the nights. Guided by Ian Dury's coarsely sardonic linkman, we are taken into a score of rooms, picking up fragments of the lives of those who inhabit this dead-end road.

For this production, the second revival in a year, half the stalls have been ripped out. Paul Brown's design incorporates a promenade built out from the stage to reach under the dress circle. The audience can walk anywhere they want to; actors are likely at any moment to offer us chips, ask for a light or even dance at the disco (I danced with Pauline). A tart pursuing her man will chase him all the way to the upper circle. Iain Glen's skia-

head, bent as a stretched bow, becomes a disciple of Buddha on the dress circle balcony.

The openness of Simon Curtis's production is a striking image for one theme in the play itself: humanity can be assertive, extraordinary and lively in any place. This exhilarating play is also a lament for a vanished England.

"I can't get over the past, how it was," Alan David's former National Serviceman recalls, quietly, with tears in his eyes at the recollection of days when everyone felt special but safe. Susan Brown's old dear, doling herself up in a scrap of mirror, remembers the war while retrieving milk from the car's bowl for her cup of tea. The author gives these characters an exceptional strength, sometimes in one longish speech in a single appearance. He can also powerfully screw up the tension, and contemporary drama has few incidents more resonant than the three scenes that follow the boy and girl who get into bed together and starve themselves to death.

The world Jim Cartwright shows us is a raw one and his language, coupling obscenities and street poetry, presents a passionate, unavoidable truth about a dis-United Kingdom.

Jeremy Kingston

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Conductors: Jan Latham-Koenig (Jan/Feb), Albert Rosen (Mar/Apr 3), Noel Davies (Apr 9)
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CONCERTS

ECO/Tate Elizabeth Hall

Jeffrey Tate's interpretation of Mozart and Haydn, much in evidence since he became principal conductor of the English Chamber Orchestra, continues to be both invigorating and disconcerting. Its crux is its forcefulness - of texture rather than gesture.

This performance of Mozart's Symphony No 38, the "Prague", was typical. The adagio introduction set an atmosphere that was more than brooding: beefy woodwind chording and a punched-out bass stride took us into a prelude-to-tragedy area that is not really justified by the way the symphony continues (despite the pre-echoes of Don Giovanni that some detect).

The first movement's development section does respond to a heavy-handed treatment, and there is pungency to be gained from accentuating the passing dissonances in the Andante, as Tate did so deliberately here. But, apart from this relish for manhandling music that many treat like a lady, Tate does currently seem to have little special to say in the 18th-century repertoire, which is not to deny that his performances are well organized.

He was far more sympathetic to the spirit of Richard Strauss's *Metamorphosen*, which was given a solidly sonorous performance later. One could argue that he should have lingered longer around those glorious climaxes, or that the ECO's 23 strings could have indulged more boldly in some "period"

portamenti. Nevertheless, the playing had an admirable passion.

The Dutch mezzo Jan van Nes, on her London debut, made a considerable impression in Mahler's Rückert-Lieder, which were beautifully accompanied (particularly by the wind in "Um Mitternacht").

She is clearly a highly serious artist; even the gentle playfulness of the opening song seemed a bit too frivolous for her. But as the mood darkened she grew in confidence and her voice revealed its considerable potential: an unforced, contralto-like chest register, developing a silvery thread as she rose higher, especially when she sang out. A slight nervousness when changing from one timbre to another was probably attributable to the big occasion.

Richard Morrison
Lumina/Blake Wigmore Hall

For fainter hearts, one hastens to point out that Alfred Shuttler's Septet, commissioned by Lumina in 1981 and scored for their ensemble of violin, viola, cello, flute, two clarinets and piano, is worlds removed from the bizarre outrages of his First Symphony, heard in London just before Christmas. But it does say what it has to say in ways that on the surface do seem rather garish.

For instance the first movement, after threatening to break into a chromatic variety of Reich-like minimalism, is interrupted by the emergence of pointedly banal piano writing and by some furious, anarchic counterpoint - all of which conspires to make it

sound a bit like Ives at his most extreme.

But then, all of a sudden, everyone converges on a unison A, at which note the second movement, labelled "Chorale", is also aimed. Its own gentler counterpoints have proliferated around inevitable diatonic block harmonies.

Yet, for all the obvious attention-seeking devices he employs, the things that impress most about Shuttler here, as elsewhere, are the stinging, the variety and the simple eloquence he somehow imparts to his music. Some see his apparent ability to absorb any other style into his own as a mark of naivety, but in the end the sheer, gripping power of both the ideas and

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Starry war on the screen

The Russians are about to invade America — on television; Ivor Davis reports from the United States on the outraged reactions to the new series, *Amerika*, from critics in the United Nations and in *Pravda*

What would the heartland of America be like under a Soviet military occupation? That's the premise of a fourteen and a half hour, week-long mini-series that American television audiences may tune into, beginning on February 13. The controversy swirling around the show is the noisiest ever stirred up by this ambitious, US commercial television production.

Critics on the left accuse the ABC network, which created the \$40 million series, of promoting "right wing propaganda in the guise of entertainment programming." Right-wingers express dissatisfaction that the invading Russians are depicted "too sympathetically".

Pravda, the official Communist Party newspaper, has condemned the series as "a deliberate act of psychological warfare". Pointing out that the series will be watched by some 60 million viewers, the newspaper declared that the show depicts people being incarcerated in concentration camps and living under a repressive regime.

Even the United Nations has joined the fray. Its Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar has protested against the use of a paramilitary force used in the show to keep the natives in line, bearing the title "UN Special Services unit" and carrying a flag with what looks like the UN crest.

Some leading Americans, including three former US Secretaries of State (Edmund Muskie, Alexander Haig, and Dean Rusk), have put their names to a letter asking ABC Television to provide programming about UN peacekeeping work to offset the damaging and negative image. The petition, also signed by former National Security adviser, Robert McFarlane, and two former chief US delegates to the United Nations, Jeane Kirkpatrick and Andrew Young, and other prominent officials, notes that the signatories are worried that the series depicts UN forces as "brutal oppressors" and suggests that before each segment of the marathon saga is shown, the network air announcements making it quite clear that the troops shown on the series "bear no resemblance to the true UN peace-keeping force". They also want free public service time to enable the UN to explain its goals.

Many ordinary people wonder if this is really the best time for an American network to show a film in which the Soviet Union, having

infiltrated the institutions of an America gone spineless, lacking in patriotism and the ideals on which the country was founded, takes over the country without a shot being fired. How, they ask, can this kind of Soviet-bashing help international relations in a nuclear age? Few people have actually seen any of the epic. With the exception of a series of screenings in Nebraska, where much of the film was shot, and selected screenings this week for television critics from around the US, the public will have to wait until next month to decide on which side of the argument they will come down.

The criticism from some of those who have seen the first four hours, has been damning. A media watch group called Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting, which includes on its advisory board the actor Ed Asner (*Law & Order*), writers Studs Terkel and Jessica Mitford and anti-nuclear activist Dr Helen Caldicott, have demanded that the ABC give them time after the programme to present "a balanced viewpoint".

They point out that in the film, "patriotism means elevating loyalty to the nation and its leaders far above other loyalties and concerns. Dissent is portrayed as unpatriotic and was the reason US security was undermined." University of California sociologist Todd Gitlin has written several pieces castigating the series. "This is garbage," he says, "so let's call it by its proper name."

The show itself, based on the evidence of the first few hours, seems too slight to occasion such venom. It is slow-paced and "talky", and even its star, Kris Kristofferson, playing Devin Milford, a Kennedy-like former Presidential candidate returned home from six years in a Soviet prison, calls it "more like a slow Russian novel". By throwing in enough graphic sex to keep the soaps in incidents for a month, however, the producers obviously hope American audiences will be hooked — and stay tuned.

Amerika, the foreign spelling designed to jump out at you, is getting a bad rap, says the man who wrote, produced, and directed it. Donald Wrye complains that the very people who are criticising him are precisely those who are always screaming about free speech and decrying censorship. "I've been



Red flag flying: Lenin and Lincoln side by side in the big parade

very scrupulous about not portraying the Soviets in a negative light," he protests. "I made a special effort to try to make a rational piece that wouldn't inflame. It's been said that somehow it's going to ignite passions against the Soviets. That's pure nonsense."

It is anybody's guess, however, how a totalitarian occupying force can be shown in anything but a bad light.

Under the occupation, American life seems to go on pretty much as before. Kids play Little League baseball and marching bands and cheerleaders still head the parade. But individual liberty has gone, the American flag is banned and banners of Lenin take its place. There are long food lines and the occupying forces regularly parade their military might down Main Street. Dissidents are carried off to the Gulag or exiled to shanty camps on the outskirts of town. The President of the United States still sits in the Oval office — but merely as a puppet of the new regime.

Besides Kristofferson, the cast includes Robert Ulrich as a solid American; an Australian actress, Wendy Hughes, as Kristofferson's ex-wife, now a collaborator; Reiner Schoene, the East German-born actor plays the commander of the United Nations military unit and the Soviet Control boss and the KGB Colonel is played by New Zealand actor Sam Neill. Pressing home the message of the marathon film, Neill says at one point to Ulrich. "You lost your country before we ever got here."

Kristofferson, an actor, singer and songwriter long identified with liberal causes in America, says he turned down the role twice because he was worried about precisely the aspects that critics of the show are now attacking. "I certainly wasn't interested in making a piece of political propaganda," he says, "nor did I want to further Cold War attitudes or help promote a confrontational relationship between Russia and the US. I knew I would put myself in



My motives were honourable... I thought it was my duty to do it

Kris Kristofferson

opposition to those who I am normally in alliance with. But my motives were honourable. The message of the show is very close to some of the songs I've been writing lately. I thought it was my duty to do it."

Kristofferson will be out of the country when the series is showing, ironically on his first visit to the Soviet Union, which is reportedly considering buying the series to show to its citizens as the kind of anti-Soviet propaganda in which the US indulges.

An official of the Soviet State Committee for Television and Radio wondered "Why not show the Soviet people how the American mass media are educating their audience?" The possible effect on Americans can only be gauged by the reaction, whenever segments of the show have been screened, to a key scene in the movie: it's Lincoln Day on Main Street, USA, and the marching bands are out in force — balloons float overhead and the Future Farmers of America march side by side with silver haired ladies of the croquet club.

The flags are all a solid red and Lincoln hangs next to Lenin. Tanks rumble by, the UN soldiers march behind machine guns and military helicopters whir overhead. Bringing up the rear is a raggle-taggle band of ancient war veterans, and lo and behold, one of them is carrying the outlawed star-spangled banner.

Devin Milford, hero of the people, is led to the podium to speak of his conversion to Soviet ideals. But he stands silent. Suddenly, from somewhere deep in the crowd, an old refrain breaks out. It's the national anthem — "The Star Spangled Banner". And within seconds the entire gathering has joined in, in defiance of their Soviet masters.

When the lights came up, there wasn't a dry eye in the house. © Times Newspapers Ltd 1987

Fear grounds the Chinook

Last November 45 oil men were killed in a helicopter crash in the North Sea. The fault has been remedied, but now a battle is on to restore confidence in the aircraft

Nearly three months after the Chinook crash off the Shetlands which killed 45 oil men, three identical helicopters are waiting to be put back to work. But although the cause of the crash is now known in considerable detail by accident investigators, and there is no technical or legal objection to the helicopters taking to the air once more, the men who live and work on the isolated rigs and their employers, the Shell Oil Company, want nothing to do with the machines (technically called Boeing 234s).

"It is terribly frustrating," said Captain David Hogg, chairman of the British Airline Pilots Association helicopter branch. "We have had to go back years to older, noisier, less comfortable machines because emotion has taken over from fact."

And the Chinook fleet's senior pilot, 40-year-old Tim Jenkins, is so convinced that the Chinook is the safest helicopter in the business that he would willingly take the apple of his eye, his three-year-old son Nicholas, with him any time if it would help to prove that anyone flying in the machines is perfectly safe.

"What happened was appalling, tragic. But we now know what went wrong and it will not happen again," he says. "Yet still we hear nothing but how unsafe the 234 is."

His confidence stems from the quite extraordinary series of events that led to the crash. For about two years, operators of the 234 including British International Helicopters, which owns the

on November 6, this crack below the front rotor suddenly opened up and sent the helicopter looping the loop before smashing on to the waves 500 feet below. Only two people escaped.

Within weeks investigators, manufacturers and operators had all agreed: put the original shim back in the ring gear and the problem would not recur. But in order to eliminate any doubts whatever, the Civil Aviation Authority decided to investigate every part of the Chinook's transmission system. While that investigation goes on Shell will not allow its men to fly in the Chinook. And the men, for their part, have no intention of doing so.

"If we do not get the go-ahead to start flying again," BHI's general manager, Kit Chambers, says, "it will mean that the one real advance in helicopter development over the last 10 years will have been lost."

In what could be a last-ditch attempt to persuade Shell to begin putting its men back on the helicopter, BHI and Boeing have produced a whole series of modifications designed to answer criticisms. "Nothing can bring back those who died," says Captain Chambers. "But when the oil business takes an upturn there will be a need for a large sophisticated modern helicopter to fly long distances over the North Sea. Only the 234 can do this — and it can do it safely. Somehow we must convince people of that."

Harvey Elliott



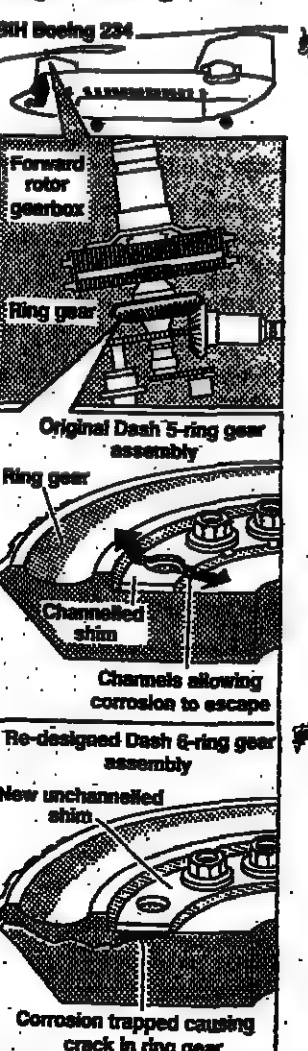
Ring of fate: Tim Jenkins (left), Kit Chambers (right) and engineer James Morgan with a gear wheel

North Sea fleet, had noticed during regular checks on the gearbox that bolts holding the large gear wheels in both front and rear rotors were shaking loose after a few hundred hours in the air. But by regular checks and a little workshop improvisation, the potential problem seemed to have been overcome.

Boeing, equally worried, sent out a mandatory notice telling all users of the 234 to incorporate a modification which, it said, would cure the problem once and for all. It wanted the bolt holes made slightly larger and it supplied a newly designed washer or shim to help clamp the part even more firmly on to the main shaft.

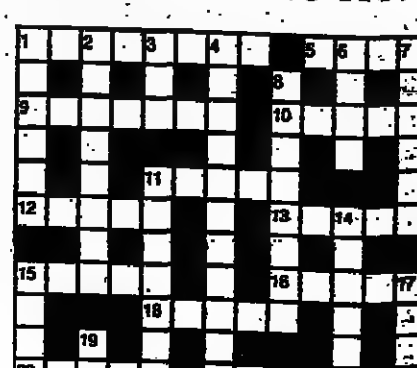
Tragically, in designing that part with the best of intentions it was sowing the seeds of disaster. For unknown to anyone, a mystery corrosive substance had been allowed to seep out of the old shim via shallow channels, a feature which the new design lacked.

Frantic attempts are now being made by Boeing to discover exactly what this substance is and how it forms. What is known is that it quickly ate into the metal and eventually led to an unseen crack around the edge of the ring gear. As the Chinook flew towards Sumburgh with its passengers



CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1167

- ACROSS
1 German motorway (8)
5 In this way (4)
9 Tuscany wine (7)
10 Sudden terror (5)
11 Perpendicular (5)
12 Formal decree (5)
13 Deduce (5)
15 Kingly (5)
16 Narrow opening (5)
18 Duck platform (5)
20 Bring on oneself (5)
21 Bristly growth (7)
23 Thames island (4)
24 Fragrant (8)



- DOWN
1 Increase by growth (6)
2 Petty (8)
3 Forbidden (5)
4 Last Ethiopian emperor (5,8)
6 Large piece (4)

- 7 Military area (6)
8 Appetising drink (8)
11 Robust (8)
14 Erring (8)
15 Live in (6)
17 Dancer indication (6)
19 Revert to (6)
22 Flying success (6)

SOLUTION TO NO 1166
ACROSS: 1 Scump, 5 Swanley, 8 ONO, 9 Funnal, 10 Bressan, 11 Gear, 12 Coruscate, 14 Dormitory tower, 17 Newcastle, 19 Iron, 21 Joyous, 23 Reason, 24 Age, 25 Ascend, 26 Doury, 27 Gage, 28 Down, 29 Crude, 31 Porcupine, 4 Polio, 5 Sober, 6 Ave, 7 Gage, 13 Impatience, 15 Ostrous, 16 Retired, 18 Assad, 20 Ostrous, 22 Gage.

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Transports of delight

More than 800 German virtuosi will perform in London soon, courtesy of a car

A two-month Festival of German Art for London was announced yesterday at the West German Embassy. Sponsored by Mercedes-Benz, it represents Mercedes' biggest single sponsorship anywhere, including West Germany, where Daimler-Benz money ensured that the Neue Staats Galerie opened in the company's base town of Stuttgart in 1985.

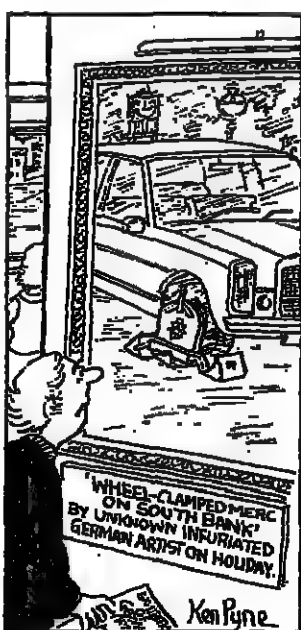
"We see this festival as a gift to Britain from Mercedes-Benz the car, not Daimler-Benz Germany or Mercedes-Benz UK," said the PR man.

Although Mercedes are as firmly German as backwater and proud to remain so, Britain has been a huge growth market for them since they introduced the British concession 12 years ago.

Sales have risen steadily from under 10,000 cars, lorries and vans a year to more than 35,000 today. In the last four years annual car sales alone have soared from 14,000 to 20,000, thanks largely to their middle-market model, the 190.

Daimler-Benz director Bernd Gottschalk said yesterday that "as a large company enjoying international recognition, we want to fulfil our cultural and social responsibilities by sponsoring high quality activities".

The high quality activities which will run for two months from April 27 — mostly on London's South Bank — involve more than 60 events



and more than 800 German musicians, actors, dancers, writers and artists.

Some of these are Herbert von Karajan and the Berlin Philharmonic; Antal Dorati and the Royal Philharmonic, both at Festival Hall; Fischer-Dieskau at the Queen Elizabeth Hall; Berlin's Schaubühne Company at the National Theatre with its production of O'Neill's *The Hairy Ape*; a multi-media exhibition about Beethoven in the Festival Hall's ballroom, and the Heidelberg Dance Theatre which will perform its director Johann Kresnik's *Sylvia Plath* in a vast studio in the Bermondsey Docklands.

The festival is timed to coincide with the 750th anniversary of the founding of Berlin. Gottschalk avoids saying how much money Mercedes are contributing. But they are underwriting the £750,000 festival and are thought to be contributing at least £500,000.

its director is Sir Ian Hunter, the impresario who presented the American Festival here two years ago and a former director of the Edinburgh Festival.

The event is the result of some ingenious and speedy negotiations, first by Hunter and then by the banking moguls he recruited to his cause — executive committee chairman George Mallinckrodt of Schroders; Freddy Fisher of Warburgs; Ronald Grierson of Warburgs and CEC and chairman of the South Bank Board; and Sir Claus Moser, who is chairman of the Royal Opera House and a director of Rothschild's.

Between them they created a committee of honour, headed by Prince Philip and the West German President's wife, Marianne von Weizsäcker. The committee includes the foreign ministers and ambassadors of both countries, Arts Minister Richard Luce and the Deutsche Bank director.

The entire festival was organized in summer last year, too late to include some elements which the organisers would have liked included, for instance, an exhibition of silver and china.

"I'm not saying that it's a totally representative festival of German art, you couldn't do that," said Sir Ian Hunter. "The notice wasn't sufficient to include opera on the scale on which it should be presented — and anyway there is a good representation of many of these aspects of German art in London already."

There may yet be a fashion show and some elements of industrial design. But the fact that there is still space to think about these things is thanks to Mercedes, the car.

Simon Tait
© Times Newspapers Ltd 1987

Toni

Sex, say thing

THE SOLUTION

WEDNESDAY PAGE

Barbara Amiel warns the Government not to treat women as a special case

Tories and the politics of envy

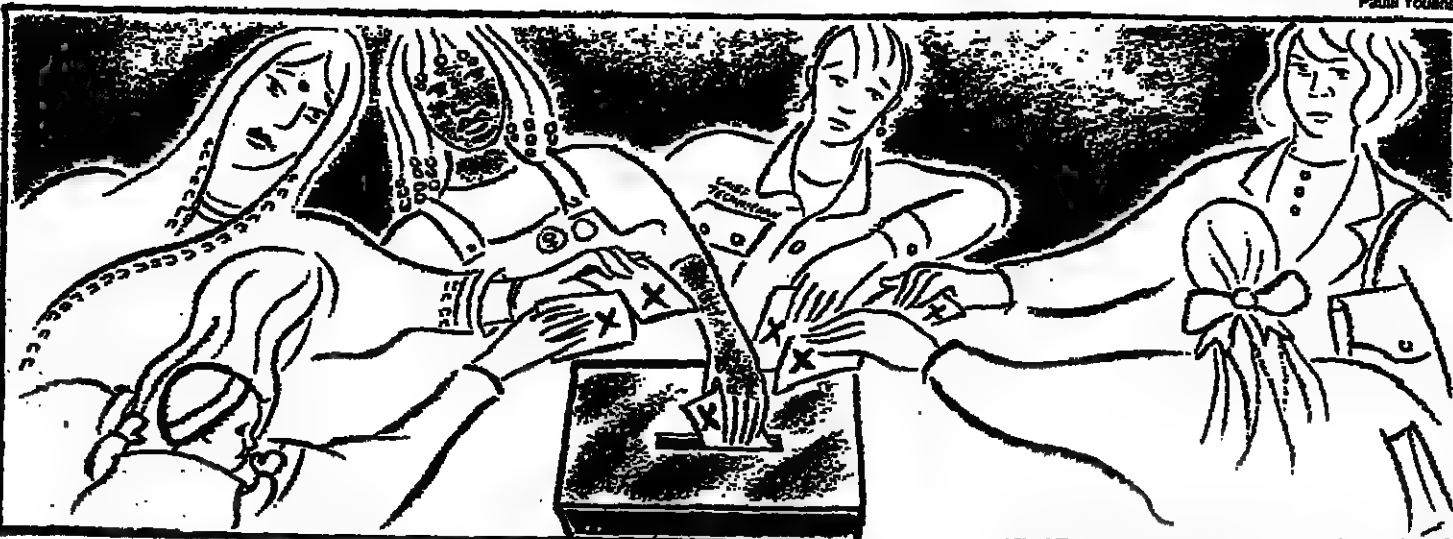
Emma Nicholson is vice-chairman of the Conservative Party with special responsibility for women. She is the Tory version of a feminist, which is to say she believes in most of the causes of feminism but eschews the more radical means of achieving them.

Miss Nicholson's star may be on the rise. Pollsters say the Tories need to attract more women and so the Tories have been increasingly attracted to "women's issues". Suddenly, Westminster has a burgeoning interest in breast and cervical cancer. The menopause may be next.

This week, the Conservative Women's National Committee (CWNC), representing about one million women, gave Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, their shopping list for 1987. It was modest enough. Tory women haven't really got into the swing of the human rights industry. They still ask rather than demand.

They asked for workplace nurseries to cease being taxed as a benefit, at the same time making it clear, somewhat apologetically, that support for tax-free day care was not to be construed as an attack on the family. There was also a delicate plea for VAT to be taken off "those products required for women's monthly cycle" and a request to raise the £71,000 threshold of inheritance tax.

It is a delicate job, this business of harmonizing the progressive siren of feminism with the commonsense tones of Toryism. Miss Nicholson tries very hard. She stands firm in her belief, for example, that a housewife's job is a real one and that housewives ought to receive wages even though they do not contribute directly to the gross national product. But, unlike radical feminists, she wouldn't



dream that the state consider paying the housewife a wage. She prefers to see her given a tax allowance — "wages under another hat," she says enthusiastically.

She also wants more women in senior positions in the courts, Civil Service and professions, but would never press for affirmative action programmes and quotas. "That's not the Tory way," she says. Behind the scenes there is a more significant development. Miss Nicholson wants to make the Tory party the party for women and has created a dizzying array of privately-sponsored women-only regional and national conferences for every variety of female.

There are the Tory professional and business women known as "The High Flyers". These include singers and dancers as well as engineers, accountants and lawyers. The under-40 set is being targeted in the Younger Women's campaign. "We must be prepared

to go to them," says Miss Nicholson, who exudes a sort of Joyce Grenfell netball captain team spirit.

So the Tory party is becoming more geographically flexible; it is also diversifying racially and culturally. This March sees the first Asian women's conference and in July there will be a black women's conference. "We are taking special care to have all religions, all sections of Asian women — people from Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Hindus, Sikhs, Moslems, Parsees and other special religious groupings — and we will be very careful about planning the diets."

What does all this mean? Miss Nicholson is quick to point out that she doesn't want to set up "black or brown" sections in the Conservative party and that these initiatives are simply a way of reaching out to various groups of women that have not previously partici-

pated in the Conservative Women's Association. "They will receive a very warm welcome from all of us," says Miss Nicholson, and I can anticipate that they will, after the shock waves die down. But there are certain icebergs looming ahead.

There is nothing wrong with the Conservatives seeking to broaden their base. The left has hijacked a good part of the women's vote by creating so-called "women's issues" and this seems to me to be utter hubbub. Women as an entity are as concerned with the practicalities of everyday living as anyone else, perhaps more so since they are less likely to have either inherited wealth or the portable skills of the intelligentsia.

Lower income women, especially, ought to be attracted to the party which has the soundest economic programmes and the strongest allegiance to liberal democracy in which individualism

flourishes. A campaign to bring women — including women from different racial groups — into the Conservative Party is harmless enough and may even aid the party's strength.

But it is quite a different matter, I think, to start organizing meetings based on colour or creed. The minute that begins, one creates the expectation of special preferences for certain groups. Unless the Conservatives have discovered something new about human nature, they will find in time that the invidious concept of statistical parity rather than equality will raise its head. Instead of realizing that every woman in the party has an equal opportunity to become a member of the executive regardless of colour, someone will note that minority members comprise 20 per cent of the CWNC, but there is not one member on the executive. One will either have to have quotas or disaffection.

For my money, the politics of envy is the disease of our times and that disease flourishes best when society breaks down into special interest groups: men, women, heterosexuals, homosexuals and so on. In the politics of envy, every advantage another person has at the expense of someone else. In this scheme of things, whites do well only at the expense of blacks. Women do badly because of the cupidity of men. Thatcherism, at least, has been remarkable in its avoidance of this disease. Whatever its faults, it has not fallen prey to the idea that every inequality, every inequality, is due to some fault or flaw in society and that nothing is ever the fault of the individual.

Emma Nicholson strikes one as a decent, compassionate Conservative with nothing but good intentions. But in her well-meaning efforts, she may be laying the groundwork for the Tory party to sink into the mire of special interest groups and related legislation. A party and its leader, after all, only has so much energy to devote to issues, and already the Tory party under Mrs Thatcher has allowed the Equal Opportunities Commission to administer the nightmarish Equal Pay for Work of Equal Value Amendment — a dangerous piece of social legislation pushed by radical feminists which is setting female workers against male workers, and playing to the worst and greediest instincts in women.

I resent the idea that there are such things as "women's issues". I never thought the long waiting list for prostate operations was a man's issue, and any wife with a husband in pain will understand that.

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BRIEFLY

A round-up of news, views and information

Learn to save

Mothers tend to worry when children play near water — but even if you're a good swimmer, could you save a life if something went wrong? On Saturday a campaign to remind adults and children alike of the dangers of water sports is launched; a joint effort by the Royal Life Saving Society and Silver Spoon, it aims to teach basic rescue and resuscitation techniques to as many of the country's 40 million swimmers as possible. Details are available from RLSS, Mountbatten House, Studley, Warwickshire B80 7NN.

Quote me . . .



"The assumption is that everyone has a career today, but many mothers, I suspect, put marriage first. This view may run counter to what schools are trying to put across. Few mothers would wish not to have had children and to have their daughters to have the same experience. — Dame Mary Wamock, Mistress of Girton College

Helping hand

Crèches free women to work, to shop and to study — but there's more to organizing one than investing in a playpen and some poster paints. The Oxford Crèche Development Project, with years of experience co-ordinating crèches, have now published guidelines which cover every practical aspect including the legal side. *Good Practice in Crèches* costs £1 (inc p&p) from the Project at St Michael's School, Marlston Road, Oxford (OX65 2JN).

Master art

For anyone who wishes their home had the expensive, designer touches featured in glossy magazines, KLC workshops arrange a wide selection of one to three-day courses in every aspect of contemporary interior design. Master the art of decorating furniture, stoneware, flower arranging or creative lighting — they are just some of the seminars on offer, led by experts under the guidance of KLC's principal, Jenny Gibbs. Write to her at 84 Addison Road, London W14 8ED (01-602 2072) for the new spring/summer prospectus.

Nasty aid

Traditionally, as soon as the Big Chill is out of the way, thoughts turn to spring cleaning. Mr Muscle is a new range designed to take some elbow grease out of nastier jobs — a Concentrated Kitchen Cleaner to remove stains from work surfaces, an Oven Cleaner to use on a cold oven, Drain Opener to cope with the toughest blockages, a Fridge and Microwave Cleaner and a Ceramic Tile Restorer. They're all priced under £1.

Josephine Fairley

Sex, says Madame, is a taxing thing — and she should know

I never really occurred to me that I would make a good prostitute. It wasn't the sort of thing the university careers officers ever suggested. But it was the first thing that struck Madame Claude, that is, the world's most prestigious call girl agency and brothel, based in Paris.

"I'd soon have you married to a Duke," she said, fixing her deep eyes (pencil-thin Saint Laurent skirt to match) on me. Nor would it be the first time she had effected such a marriage. Looking uncharacteristically amused (the finely structured, tight-lipped face almost manages the relevant muscular exercise), she says: "It makes me laugh when I see the photographs of the ladies and countesses in the social pages of *Tatler*, *Harpers* and *Vogue*, and count up which ones started off by working for me." Her major coup was when one of her girls — "the daughter of a mere concubine" — married a peer.

"I have retired," she adds, turning her attention to the wine list (her choice of restaurant: *un bras à une jambe* job). She points to a very expensive bottle of Chateau Margaux. While my face matures to a cheap claret colour, she sits there demurely, 63, looking an elegant fortyish.

Madame Claude gave up her call girl network 10 years ago. "Sexual liberation meant that the market was shrinking." But the primary reason was that she had run into tax problems. By 1975, her earnings were estimated at

As the Cynthia Payne case continues, Caroline Phillips flew to Paris to talk to the celebrated Madame Claude

£500,000 a year, and she faced charges of tax fraud and procuring more than 2,000 girls.

So she went to the United States for a decade's vacation, and returned last year on bad legal advice believing, mistakenly, that her tax sins had been absorbed. She came back to a four-month prison sentence, albeit in a converted 17th-century castle in the South of France. The prison experience failed to ruffle one of the Vidal Sassoon-clipped hairs on her head. "Prison destroys those who can be destroyed," she says, pragmatically. Instead, she reflected on life. ("I have no complaints, no regrets," watched television and completed her second book, *Le Meilleur C'est L'Autre*, which should appear in English soon.

The book contains advice to women on how to keep a man, culled from years of being confidante to thousands of disgruntled (mainly married) *hommes*. It runs the gamut from psychological hints to practical tips on how a woman can retain her looks and mystery.

She believes that women are superior to men and can instinctively exploit them. But her views are pessimistic. She regards love, with its concomitant jealousies, as a handicap. And she believes that the sexes

share little in common. "If you didn't need a man and a woman to make children, they would never talk to each other," she says.

The critics derided her book "because I didn't name names," she says, claiming she doesn't like scandal and prefers discretion. More to the point is the fact that she still owes £2 million income tax on profits; and with many of her old faithful still pacing round Whitehall-sun-Seine, she probably prefers to let sleeping ministers lie.

Her girls were groomed for the most refined tastes, at prices that made dinner at Maxim's beforehand seem like McDonald's. "The men wanted the best and were prepared to pay for it. Kings, princes, ministers and ambassadors were the clients, among her clients. But it was not easy to find her. "You needed high-class contacts to get my number. This was to maintain the calibre of clients." She had daughters of diplomats and generals, countesses, secretaries, students and married women working for her.

Recruitment was no problem: she maintained she was over-subscribed. "About 20 girls a month would come to me, and I would choose one." She judged them initially on "face, figure and intelligence", and would have one of a

handful of "friendly" clients monitor sexual performance. "They would tell me whether the girl was any good, useless or worth educating," she says in the manner of a sophisticated sexologist talking about product packaging. Indeed, she liked to regard her girls as smartly-wrapped Christmas parcels, which saved the men the time of shopping.

Despite having been educated in a convent — her first job was selling Bibles — she says she had no qualms about her work. "I am a well-balanced woman with no hang-ups." Instead, she treated her profession with the utmost professionalism, rapidly becoming a workaholic in order to achieve the quality she desired. "I took out everything that is shameful in prostitution and elevated it to something chic and dignified," she says. "The girls were proud to be Madame Claude girls."

She is a perfectionist, and wanted to create the perfect woman. "I felt like a sculptress," she says. She would send her "graduates" to courtyards, beauticians, health farms and plastic surgeons. She taught them correct posture, to talk intelligently and read books. "A man wants a woman who is sophisticated, funny, intelligent and interested in him — totally supportive and never bothering him with her problems."

It seems that she found the correct formula. "No one has matched me, before or since."

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Fernande Grudet, alias Madame Claude: sexual liberation meant the market was shrinking

Stress within the marriage

From: Warren Coleman, Institute of Marital Studies, The Tavistock Centre, Belzite Lane, London

The article on stress ("Run Rugged by the Rat Race", January 5) makes the point that stress at work has a potentially devastating effect on marriages and families. Attention also needs to be drawn to the fact that marital difficulties can themselves be a cause of stress and result directly in reduced work performance.

Marital difficulties, in turn, are frequently caused, at least in part, by a number of work-related stresses in addition to those mentioned in the article. Redundancy and approaching retirement can all disrupt the emotional balance in a marriage.

Alleviating the effects of stress is clearly important and valuable but it is also necessary to address its underlying, emotional causes, particularly in these various areas of tension between the

TALKBACK

From: Sandra Finlay, Meard Street, Soho, London

I felt the article on stress, although interesting, was an irritating, sexist piece of writing, bereft of any debate or criticism. The focus on business and the presumption that men suffer the effects of stress, whilst the little woman sits at home picking up the pieces, strikes me as a totally unacceptable view.

Surely, women are as vulnerable as men to these problems, if not more so, bearing in mind that the average female counterpart of the men described will have more overlap domestic responsibilities impinging on her professional world.

Dr Livingston Booth's advice on coping with conflicts at work — "stressed colleagues can be helped by teamwork, sharing management problems, wider social involvement and development of pride in the business man, when the family as a whole requires help in restructuring day to day life to minimise stress? The key must be development of pride in the

family, providing security which will in turn benefit the business man.

From: Celia Battersby, Longdale House, Wincle, Macclesfield, Cheshire

Many educated women with grown-up families must have felt, as I did, that Libby Purves' comments in "Changing Nannies at Kensington Palace" (January 19) were too obvious to need stating. No doubt in a few years time she will be telling us that it's even more difficult to find a mother substitute for teenagers.

I assessed all these difficulties pretty accurately when my husband and I decided to start a family. He appreciated that I was giving up my career to be with the children, and respected me for it.

When my sons finally came to leave home, I began working with a solicitor. I found I couldn't stand the sheer tedium of the work. I have concluded that very few people have interesting and fulfilling work: most jobs are attractive only for the salary they bring. I now thoroughly enjoy doing all the fascinating things which I never had time to do when the family lived at home. How I pity the poor women journalists whose interests seem limited to such boring topics as breast-feeding, the menopause, child abuse, the single parent family, and Nanny Barnes!

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THE TIMES DIARY

Separate ways

The Anti-Apartheid Movement's picketing last month of *Björk's* *Sunbird*, an uncompromisingly anti-apartheid play which happened to be performed by South African actors, may have drastic consequences for future tours. Impressarios Arts Admin, who hope to stage *You Strike the Woman, You Strike the Rock* by the South African Vusizwe Players in Britain this year, tell me: "Every venue we ring asks where the company will stand in relationship to the cultural boycott." I suspect the AAM may keep its head down for fear of looking ridiculous. Though at first insisted on a total boycott, AAM has not taken up the National Theatre's offer to meet Sir Peter Hall to discuss its original fears about the Cottesloe's staging of *Björk's*. The unwelcome suspicion is that interest has dissipated because *Björk's* features three black South African actors as opposed to the two whites who took to the boards for *Sunbird* at the Lyric, Hammersmith. Happily for Arts Admin, Vusizwe happens to be an all-black company.

Join the queue

Fifty-one Liberals had handed in their names to stand for David Penhaligon's Truro seat the deadline yesterday. Most will be despatched with a stroke of the pen when the selection committee meets on Friday, nevertheless, it is progress for the Alliance. I recall the pathetic scrap of paper pinned up outside the SDP conference hall in September announcing that a Labour stronghold still lacked a prospective candidate. "Anyone interested should meet me at the noticeboard at 3.30, or 5.30 this afternoon. I will stand here again at 12.30 tomorrow."

Overruled

Admen Abbot Mead Vickers had one of their copies for this week's Alliance relaunch rally sent back by David Steel. He objected to: "In 1603, James I created the United Kingdom. Unemployment under both Labour and the Tories has now split it in two." Five-born Steel pointed out that in Scotland the king in question was James VI. The posters and pamphlets now refer simply to "King James". And I have news for them all: the term United Kingdom was not used until 1801.

Arts parts

Unipart, which claims to be the "market leader in exhaust systems for all makes of cars", has decided to become a patron of the arts. It is offering art students prizes worth £10,000 for an "original sculpture". The catch is that it has to be made from car exhaust pipes and fittings. Jon Neill, the group's chief executive, says: "We feel our scheme is an appropriate inspirational challenge to Britain's young sculptors." To prevent students descending on the nation's scrap yards, Unipart promises that every entrant will receive "a variety of exhaust components" - free.

Foiled

Douglas Hurd is blessed with the greatest asset any politician can possess: luck. As the Commons voiced its outrage at the weekend's Wapping riot, the Home Secretary was able to say that he hoped new powers will be introduced "within the next few weeks" - thus winning the appropriate "Hurd Acts" headlines in yesterday's nationals. In fact, the Home Office confirmed yesterday, the powers to limit the numbers at demonstrations will come into effect on April 1. No swift response there: in December a Home Office press release announced that most of the remainder of the Act would come into force on (that's right) April 1.

BARRY FANTONI



Gold, darling! Are we getting married or voting Alliance?

Branching out

The decision by the diocese of London to split the office of Archdeacon of London in two has prompted lengthy discussions on how the newcomer should be styled. The first plan was to call him "Archdeacon of Westminster", but this caused objections from Westminster Abbey, which already uses the title for one of its canons. "Paddington" was rejected on the grounds that Paddington is the seat of an area deanery. "Mayfair" was deemed too upmarket; "Soho" too dubious. Now the diocese has decided on "Archdeacon of Charing Cross". This is not to everyone's taste, however. "People will go around asking him the time of the next train to Dover," a worried cleric complains.

PHS

Ex-president Richard Nixon recalls a wise and warm friend

My debt to Macmillan

Now that Harold Macmillan's compatriots have paid tribute to his distinguished career in British politics, may an overseas colleague offer an assessment of his contribution internationally.

As prime minister from 1957 to 1963 he was the right man in the right place at the right time. The tragedy of Suez brought him to power. If I may resort to a British understatement, the role of the United States in handling that crisis was not admirable. The serious mistakes the US has made in dealing with Iran pale into insignificance compared with those made during the Suez crisis.

As Eisenhower's vice-president I followed events at first-hand. Suez could not have come at a worse time, since Eisenhower was running for re-election on a platform of peace and prosperity. In our public statements, we virtually put the British and French in the same category as the Soviets in unjustifiably resorting to force to achieve their foreign policy objectives. Only a few days before, the United States had joined other countries in condemning Khrushchev for his ruthless suppression of the Hungarian freedom fighters. We forced the British and French to abandon their efforts to punish Nasser for his expropriation of the Suez Canal.

Years later, after he had left office, I talked with Eisenhower about Suez; he told me it was his major foreign policy mistake. He grumbled his teeth as he remarked, "Why couldn't the British and the French have done it more quickly?" He went on to observe that the US action in saving Nasser at Suez didn't help as far as the Middle East was concerned. Nasser became even more anti-west and anti-US. We agreed that the worst fallout from Suez was that it weakened the will of our best allies, Britain and France, to play a major role in the Middle East or in other areas outside Europe.

Macmillan's task as he assumed office was awesome. Britain had lost its colonies. It was no longer a military or economic superpower. The special relationship with the



November 1958: Macmillan and Nixon, then vice-president, at No 10. Fourteen years later, a message of sympathy after Watergate

United States had been severely damaged. Only a master politician could meet the challenge of carving out a new role for Britain on the world stage: a task for which Macmillan was uniquely qualified. He was justifiably proud of his British heritage. While he was too discreet to say so publicly, I think he would have agreed that while Britain was no longer a military superpower, it was still an intellectual superpower with the responsibility and opportunity to play a significant role in the world.

I can personally attest to that fact. In the 40 years that I have been in politics I have profited enormously from the wise counsel of many prominent Britons whom I have been privileged to know and work with, but no one influenced me more in that time than Harold Macmillan. He gave me invaluable advice when I met him in London in 1958, prior to my first trip to Moscow the following year. Based on the meetings he had had with Soviet

leaders, he said: "They want to be admitted as members of the club." Macmillan was a consummate realist and gave no credence at all to the sentimental view that the Americans would change Soviet behaviour, but he believed that treating the Russians with respect was a small price to pay for establishing the basis for rational discussion of our differences rather than to have meetings end up in a shouting match.

Macmillan also expressed some views when we met in 1958 which are relevant to Gorbachev's highly publicized openness initiative - *glasnost*. As a cold-eyed realist, he would be the last one to be taken in by tokenism. But he always put what would seem at the moment to be very small changes into historical perspective. He observed: "A hundred years elapsed between the time that Queen Elizabeth sent her advisers who fell out of favour to the scaffold, and Queen Anne, who sent hers

into exile. Only five years elapsed between Stalin, who executed his rivals, and Khrushchev, who sent Bulganin out to run a power plant in Siberia."

He was convinced, as I am, that while the pace of change in the Soviet Union seems excruciatingly slow, we must always bear in mind that what matters in the long run is the fact and the direction of change.

His famous "Wind of Change" speech has been widely misunderstood and misinterpreted. He was a far-sighted observer who saw that change was inevitable in Africa and other Third World countries, but he never advocated that we should bend with the winds. What we should do is to try to change their direction.

I profoundly disagree with those who believe that because Britain is no longer a military and economic superpower, what British leaders think no longer matters very much. As long as it produces leaders like Harold Macmillan, Britain will always play a major role on the world scene.

My affection and respect for Harold Macmillan is due in part to our personal relationship. When my problems in the Watergate crisis were being widely publicized, he wrote to me: "Although I now live remote from current affairs, thinking more of the past than of the present, I feel impelled, in view of our long friendship, to send you a message of sympathy and good will. I trust that these clouds may soon roll away and that you may be able to take up with enthusiasm the task of promoting the peace and prosperity of the world to which you have already made such a notable contribution."

He did not intend to take sides in what he considered to be a strictly American political issue, but in effect what he was saying, as one practising politician to another, was that he wished me well. I shall always be grateful for his kindness at that time. What you learn when you fail is that you hear from your friends.

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Lawrence Freedman

How Moscow might kill SDI

Caspar Weinberger, the US Secretary of Defence, has suggested that the Strategic Defence Initiative is making such excellent progress that it will soon be possible to begin development work towards a limited deployment six years hence. Other members of the Reagan administration are less optimistic.

In fact, Weinberger's push for early deployment reflects less the progress of the research (which has been mixed) than concern over future political obstacles. His proposals would make it even less likely that SDI could be constrained by arms control agreements. The programme might gain enough momentum to ensure that a future administration might find it hard to cancel.

The most positive construction to be put on Weinberger's efforts is that he is attempting to press the Soviet Union into more concessions in the arms control talks. But Gorbachev's advisers might well be reporting that its long-term prospects are not impressive. In the American debate, SDI's supporters are having a difficult time convincing sceptics that the enterprise will lead to anything more worthwhile than a higher awareness of the problems of constructing strategic defences.

It might be possible to develop systems that would have a reasonable chance of intercepting a known number of known missiles travelling in predictable ways. But the problem is not so simple. Supporters cite the many scientific breakthroughs achieved despite the confident expectations of sceptics. But an assessment of the SDI's real feasibility is not a matter of technical but of strategic feasibility. The numbers and types of attacking ballistic missiles will be varied, and other counter-measures can be introduced, so as to defeat new defences. SDI hardware will itself be vulnerable to attack. Even if it eventually proves possible to limit the ballistic missile threat, enormous problems would still arise in constructing a defence against what are now called "air-breathing" systems - bombers and cruise missiles.

It might be counter-argued that if the problem of ballistic missiles can be cracked then that posed by other delivery systems ought to be much more manageable. But that is not the position being taken by the Reagan administration. It is argued, at least in the arms control negotiations, that nuclear deterrence can be sustained in future using the "air-breathers". Sufficient bombers and cruise missiles will be able to get through enemy defences. Yet here is an area where the Warsaw Pact has deployed extensive air defences. This is the basis of the major Soviet strategic defence effort (which is often referred to by administration spokesmen as justification for the US anti-ballistic missile effort). The US has no serious air defences and those in the rest of NATO are limited.

None the less, despite all defensive advantages on the other side, the US is placing confidence in its capabilities and experience with bombers and cruise missiles, and in the new "stealth" technology

which will make these systems harder to detect. There is no evidence in all this that the US truly believes we are on the verge of a shift in the balance of advantage in strategic weapons from the offensive to the defensive.

There is still no clear sense of ultimate objectives. The president clings to his long-term "vision" of rendering nuclear weapons impotent and obsolete, while much of the research is actually being devoted to protecting military assets (such as missile silos, command and control centres and air bases) and even to protecting such assets in Europe. No clear favourites have yet emerged in terms of the technological bases for eventual strategic defences, though setting priorities cannot be delayed much longer. Congress is unlikely to be generous with SDI funding, though equally unlikely to cut it off completely.

In addition, SDI is weakened by its lack of widespread political support. Pressure to demonstrate visibly that technical progress is being made results in somewhat contrived "experiments" designed to prove that SDI is getting somewhere rather than actually moving the research along.

SDI has failed to convince the independent scientific community, and much of the NATO establishment, that it is worthwhile for much more than hedging against a Soviet SDI. There is certainly an interest in what is happening within the research programme irrespective of what it yields for strategic defence. It is a stimulus to US high technology and important for that reason alone - because of the potential consequences for civilian and conventional-military technology. That is why western European governments and companies have been so anxious to participate, and why many otherwise sceptical Americans are happy to see it go on. But these arguments may not sustain the initiative should the question arise of whether it should move into ever more expensive and difficult development and testing phases.

Gorbachev's advisers may be forced to conclude that the main thing going for SDI is the hostility of the Soviet Union. The clinching argument for the proponents is that anything that worries the Soviet leaders so much cannot be all that bad, and that if it draws concessions from the Kremlin in the course of negotiations then it is worth sustaining for that reason alone. By making such a fuss about SDI the Soviet Union has helped them to do a "bargaining chip".

Gorbachev may insist that he cannot ignore SDI. The US is technologically so superior: how can anyone be so sure that it will fall here? Certainly there can be no question of allowing SDI to work by reducing offensive forces down to the level where it could actually cope. Although Gorbachev wants restraint, he might be tempted to discover whether a more relaxed SDI posture would undermine Soviet claims to a strategic parity with the US.

The author is Professor of War Studies at King's College, London.

Alan Franks

Slouching to St Ives

Although a walkaholic for 20 years I can report a fresh spring in my stride after stumbling upon a small new clump of books on the apparently simple yet frequently complex matter of getting about England on foot. They are the work of Ken Ward, who began long-distance walking - or rather marching - as a paratrooper during the Second World War.

He has called his six-volume series *Footpath Touring*, and it is, with respect, an idiot's guide to travelling, section by gentle section, along some of the best stretches of long-distance rights of way in the country.

I test-strode one of these recently, around the toe and into the instep of Cornwall, in the company of Ken Ward, his wife Margaret, my own wife Susan, and an enthusiastic band of mature (in many cases mature to the point of retirement) Americans and Canadians.

The great thing about Ward's guides is that they have identified bits - often quite remote bits - of walking terrain and then proceed to do all the donkey work for you; not merely step-by-step advice on the route, but also catalogues of transport minutiae, telephone numbers of hotels along the way, right down to the addresses of what he terms his "guardian angels", such as the local farmers who will allow weather-worn walkers to come in and telephone for a taxi upon production of a guide book. These are books which come as near as books can to holding the reader's hand.

More to the point, they have managed to find an important gap within one of the biggest specialist publishing booms of the past 20 years. For Ward addresses himself to that area of walking which I would describe, not facetiously, as "geriatric meandering", by which I mean only a compression of geriatric meandering.

The Sports Council now estimates that six million people walk regularly for walking's sake,

and it attributes the growth of this partly to the leisure time enjoyed by an increasingly healthy population over the age of 55.

Ward is a placid and implausible 60-year-old, whose rationale has two main strands, one of which smacks of moralism as soundly as does the other of hedonism. That is to say, he believes that we have a certain duty, towards ourselves as well as towards our friends and dependents, to keep ourselves in trim, while at the same time he extols the simple pleasures of being out in a far reach of the countryside when there is no one else about. It is not quite the strange coalition of ideals as it might first appear.

He also has a delightfully accurate appraisal of the way in which his fellow humans use, or rather fail to use, the pair of legs with which they were issued at birth. It runs as follows: "You see these people striding along, working their arms for all they're worth. Terrible waste of energy. They think they're walking, but they're not really. To walk properly, and for long distances, the essence is to do less, not more work. You have to lean forward a little, so that the legs are allowed to swing through naturally. The arms have nothing to do with it."

During the weekend I spent with him, between Falmouth and St Ives, he was clearly getting the point across to his transatlantic clientele, the youngest of whom was a rather gaminous county court judge, aged 43, called Cissy. As we walked, and Ward talked, you could almost see the purposeful stride of competition give way to the energy-conserving slouch of acceptance.

Long may Ward remain a beneficiary of three other Ws: walking, working and writing. Ken Ward's six guides (*Essex, Lakedale, Land's End and Lizard, Cornwall, Coast-to-coast, from Cumbria to Yorkshire, and Provence*) are published by Jarrod Publications at £1.95 each.



Betty Sheridan (left) and Pat Headd: abused locally, snubbed by Labour HQ, but determined to battle on

Bernie Grant: no sign that his commitment has slackened

Lollipop lady who says 'stop' to the left

Despite the abolition of the GLC and the provision of large sums of money to the inner cities, the government has not been able to halt the growth of the hard left in many areas. In response, ordinary people are beginning to become politicians and try to do for themselves what their elected representatives have been unable to do for them.

Betty Sheridan and Pat Headd, residents of Haringey, north London, are two such. Betty Sheridan works as a "lollipop lady"; Pat Headd is a housewife. Both are lifelong Labour voters. They, with others, are the founder members of the Haringey Parents' Rights Group, set up, after the May 1986 local elections, to oppose the education policies of their council, which, according to them, is trying to subject their children to a pernicious form of educational propaganda designed to promote homosexuality.

The evidence seems to support the parents' argument. After the election, the council set up a Lesbian and Gay Unit and provided it with £250,000 and a staff of six. On June 9 Robert Mitchell of the unit wrote to all Haringey education staff insisting that "lesbian and gay issues be addressed with the same vigour and clarity as other areas of oppression", and telling them that "the council is to establish a fund for curriculum projects from nursery through to further education which are specifically designed to promote positive images of lesbians and gays".

The "Positive Images" policy was set out in a paper produced by Lesbian and Gay Unit sub-groups entitled "Gay Lessons". Teachers were urged that "when discussing sexual and emotional relationships the existence and experience of lesbians and gays should be included positively".

In addition, a booklet entitled *The Playbook for Kids about Sex*, directed at pre-pubescent children, advises its readers that "You can keep this book all to yourself or you can show it to other people", thus expressly authorizing children, if they wish, to

sexuality should be tolerated in Haringey, but whether a significant number of Haringey parents (5,000 signed a petition to the council against the policy last summer) have a right to prevent their children being exposed to an education policy and educational material that they find deeply offensive.

There are many parallels between the Haringey parents and the working miners during the 1984 coal strike. The Haringey parents have suffered similar intimidation. They have been subjected to death threats on the telephone and face to face, been uninvited and spat upon.

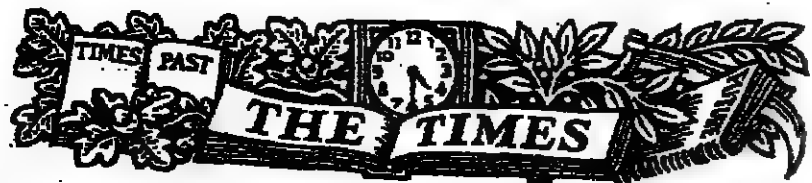
The working miners, many of them traditional Labour voters, appealed to the national Labour Party to help them. So did the Haringey parents. Both were met with stony rejection. Mr Kinnock's office replied to an appeal from the parents on May 26, 1986, with an insultingly brief letter, refusing to intervene. The writer suggested they "pursue this matter directly with the authority".

They did. Their attempts to put their case to meetings of the council and its education committee have been met with violence and contempt. They have been prevented from speaking, had eggs thrown at them in the council chamber and been assaulted by council members and hard left activists bussed into meetings from all over London.

Haringey's education policy is beginning to receive attention in higher places, both spiritual and temporal. The Rev David Rushworth-Smith, a Baptist minister, began a hunger strike on New Year's Day which he intends to continue until the council reverses its policy of positive classroom images of homosexuals.

Correction

Robert Worcester's article on Monday described the result of a recent Gallup opinion poll as a "total aberration". This should have read "an aberration".



GORBACHOV'S THERMIDOR?

With his proposal yesterday that officials of the Soviet Communist Party be elected in future by secret ballot, Mr Gorbachov is broaching potentially the most radical change that the world's first communist state has yet countenanced. It is a proposal which goes against so much communist canon, so much party tradition, that it is almost breath-taking. It is also the one measure which, if carried through to its conclusion, could eventually spell the end of communist power.

But that is to run ahead, to become — as Lenin might have said — dizzy with the possibilities. Caution is in order. The proposal for secret ballots has yet to be approved by the Central Committee — something not guaranteed even to a proposal from the Party leader. Even if it should be approved in principle, its scope is (and may remain) unspecified. Mr Gorbachov's proposal relates to the introduction of secret ballots for party secretaries, including first secretaries, at and above district level. He made no mention of lower level party organizations, nor of national elections.

There is also the not insignificant matter of implementation. The Soviet Constitution has been described as the most democratic in the world. Its translation into practice has long belied that description. What price secret ballots unless there is more than one name on the ballot paper and fewer posts to be filled than nominations?

Mr Gorbachov mentioned

that if the proposal were to be adopted, party committees would decide how many names to enter on the ballot paper. But that leaves existing party bureaucrats with their powers little diminished, unless — in an equally radical departure — they were to be required to submit themselves for re-election and their own terms of office were to be fixed. That, however, is not apparently envisaged as yet.

Yet the very suggestion that the present Soviet system of electing communist party officials — and hence the country's leaders — is in any way deficient represents a notable departure in itself. The present procedure, whereby the respective party committee decides behind closed doors who is to be nominated, then submits the names for automatic approval by members, has been a hallowed part of the party's practice almost since its inception.

It derives from the notion that the party elite (held to embody the distillation of party spirit) consists of the best people to formulate policy and determine their successors. That assumes an element of honour and altruism among party officials which has long been absent from most areas of Soviet political life. The genuine idealism which inspired many of the first generation of Bolsheviks has been supplanted, as even Soviet comment concedes, by self-seeking careerism. The party elite has become a self-perpetuating ruling caste, hostile to new ideas that might challenge its power. As the Italian Communist

Party recognized — to the chagrin of Soviet ideologists — after the declaration of martial law in Poland six years ago, the Soviet Communist Party in its present form is incapable of renewing itself. Yet renewal is what the Soviet Union desperately needs if it is to claim its place as a superpower into the next century. And as Mr Gorbachov has now implicitly acknowledged, that renewal will have to start with the elite. It will also have to incorporate elements of a commodity that has been much criticized by Moscow in the past: Western style democracy.

Four weeks ago, we ventured the question "if...". If the Soviet Union were to become a democratic state, if it were to join the mainstream of international life, what would that mean — for the people of the Soviet Union and for the West? That one question, which incorporated specific criticisms of the way the Soviet Union at present conducts its affairs, elicited a hostile rebuttal from the Soviet Communist Party paper Pravda, suggesting that it had touched a raw nerve.

Were the proposal for secret ballots to be accepted, were it to be adopted in subsequent Soviet elections for Party and government officials, and were the voting to be genuinely secret, and not simply a gesture designed to make the Soviet Union merely look democratic, the Soviet Union would at least be moving in the direction of democracy. We might then be able to contemplate asking not "if...", but "when". We cannot do so yet.

HOW ANDERTON HELPS THE LEFT

It would be a curious irony indeed if Mr James Anderton's behaviour as chief constable of Greater Manchester were to increase support for the Labour Party's campaign to subject police forces to greater political control. But it is undeniable that the spectacle of the chief constable of a major force declaring that he is God's prophet is unlikely to increase public confidence that he is listening to the voice of the community.

Most people rightly believe that alongside independence from politicians, policemen should place some importance on answering to the community they serve. At a time when the Labour Party has drafted a fresh manifesto for its local government conference early next month, which suggests greater power for elected representatives to "supervise" the police, any chief constable who by ill-considered statements brings that possibility closer, is asking for trouble.

It is idle to pretend that the theory and practice of the relations between police and government are in perfect balance. The relationship is unclear, partially secret and cannot be defined in a way which survives changes of circumstance. Local police "authorities" have limited financial oversight and otherwise merely advise chief constables. The Home Secretary has few formal powers but exercises considerable *de facto* leverage. Chief constables are independent in their own areas but are increasingly dependent

on their fellow chief officers to cope with crimes and disorders which do not respect county boundaries. In this tripartite system an alliance of any two parties can usually force a retreat by the third.

But the fact that the present state of affairs has evolved piecemeal does not mean that it is in need of reform along Labour lines. The issue in Labour's eyes is not advice, communication or even "supervision"; it is power. If its latest document were to be taken at face value, Labour wants a new answer to the old question: "Who at the end of the day takes the decision when all the talking has to stop?"

The short answer to that is and has to remain: chief constables. The principal overseer of the quality of their decisions must be the Home Secretary. The Police Act may not have anticipated all developments of the last two decades, but it did recognise something far more important — that the political side of this delicate power balance should be broad and national rather than narrow and local. The intention of the Act was to minimise the risks of illegitimate political interference in the neutral enforcement of law. And it has.

To take the most generous possible view of Labour's proposals, making police forces accountable to elected local representatives might put through a desirable reform of local policing policy here or

there. But this small advantage would be bought at a high price; policing would be supervised by the likes of Mr Bernie Grant and Ms Linda Bellos.

The search for the best arrangements is the search for an imperfect compromise between society's elected leaders and its policemen. The former should always have some influence over broad long-term policy, relations between the police and society and over resources, but they should have as little opportunity as possible to interfere on the ground. The latter will always wish to maximize their autonomy but it cannot be unlimited.

The maintenance of this balance, however, places a heavy responsibility on the Home Office to ensure that policing is responsive to the public it serves. The best use of local liaison committees requires hard work and imagination. Senior officers are not all instinctively open to local opinion. The public still requires satisfying that the police complaints system works as well as it can.

Politicians who wish to improve the relationship between police and government would spend their time better wrestling with those tougher issues than with slogans about democratic accountability. Many senior Labour politicians understand the issues of policing a free society, but they find it hard to voice that understanding for fear of the left. For proof one need look no further than our own front door.

STAYING ON IN LEBANON

It is a tribute to the effort and achievement of Mr Terry Waite that concern for his welfare in Lebanon has spread beyond family and Church to affect a more universal parish. This concern reflects not just the respect which he has won, but the environment which he has entered.

Yet within the cauldron of political and religious enmity in modern Lebanon also live 166 British nationals — the rump of the much larger community that existed during happier days in the Levant. Only one British subject remains outside Beirut, while 138 are in the Eastern, mainly Christian half of the city. While there must be unease for their safety, concern is more naturally focused on the other 27, comprising 14 families, who remain in the Muslim enclave to the West.

Of 76 foreigners who have been kidnapped in Beirut in recent times, 26 are, as far as is known, still being held. Thirteen of them have been seized by one extremist grouping or another since Mr Waite began his latest mission to the country. Is there anything one can do to end this threat?

Kidnapping by ruthless zealots in Beirut is not a new phenomenon. What is different today is that they seek their hostages among Beirut's dwindling international community. Securing their release is a difficult and dangerous business in which success can at best be limited.

In Washington the chairman of the Senate foreign relations committee, a liberal Democrat, has talked of military action against Lebanon, if that government's complicity should be proved. This is perhaps unlikely. But a retaliatory attack on terrorist camps in the Bekaa valley, which the French carried out in 1984 and which Dr Henry Kissinger has been suggesting this week, cannot be ruled out.

That response might be open to a superpower. Britain, however, has more restricted options. Whitehall can hardly order British subjects to leave Lebanon. Indeed, all the families in West Beirut have yet again refused to leave despite being advised to do so. Some of them have lived all their lives in the country and have no other home.

But the circumstances are

now such that the Government should renew its warning to them that in the event of their being kidnapped, little can be done to get them back. This is a fact of life which must be apparent to the people themselves. But they should also understand that there are no concessions which this country could or should make on their behalf.

In most circumstances, it is not the practice of the Foreign Office to turn its back on those who run undue risks. As far as possible, British nationals should enjoy the protection of the Crown wherever they may be. But a clear restatement of British policy, which acknowledged the near-impossibility of negotiating the release of hostages in Lebanon, might be the best service one could perform for them. It would at least tell those who persecute them that they stand to gain nothing by their action.

The results of Mr Waite's mission remain yet to be seen. One must hope he will succeed and come home safely. Should he fail, however, one must question the wisdom of further expeditions of this kind. They are expeditions to a country at war with itself.

Starting point for schools reform

From Mr A. B. Cram and Dr F. A. J. Macdonald
Sir, May we add a Scottish dimension to the educational debate initiated by Mr Kenneth Baker? As we understand it, the Secretary of State for Education and Science wishes to encourage reform in three main areas — the reintroduction of direct, as distinct from local authority, funding; the greater involvement of parents in the management of schools; and the devolution of more decision-making to local school level.

Meanwhile, north of the border, there exists a school ideally placed to pioneer all three reforms. Jordanhill College School, Glasgow, attached to Jordanhill College of Education, has been well used (and still is) by the college for teacher training purposes. However, the college governors, under pressure from the Scottish Office, in turn under pressure from the Public Accounts Committee, have been forced to concede that the school is not strictly needed for the carrying out of teacher training functions.

This has created a funding and a management crisis for a school with a capacity roll of 1,100 pupils aged from five to 18, and a waiting list of 1,300.

Last August the Secretary of State for Scotland proposed that the school become independent and fee-paying, but this is rejected by parents and staff on the grounds that it would fundamentally alter the school's character as a neighbourhood school serving a natural catchment area within the west end of Glasgow. The obvious public-sector option of transfer to the local authority also has difficulties in its way.

Faced with this situation the parent association, encouraged by Mr Baker's initiatives in England, has put forward to the Scottish Office a proposal that the school be funded directly by the Government and its management entrusted to a governing body comprising parents, staff and local community interests.

Here is a splendid opportunity for Government aspirations to be translated immediately into action.

Yours sincerely,
A. B. CRAM, Headmaster,
F. A. J. MACDONALD,
Chairman, Parent Teacher Association Action Group,
Jordanhill College School,
Chamberlain Road,
Jordanhill, Glasgow.

Separate sixths

From the Headmaster of Bishopshill School, Hillingdon
Sir, The Principal of Halesowen College acknowledges in his letter (January 14) that parents "almost invariably" dislike separating sixth forms from the rest of the school.

Kidney shortfall

From Mr T. H. Cheshire
Sir, Your leader, "From death to life" (January 19), states the case fairly on the deplorable shortfall in available kidneys for transplant. But there is another aspect which needs to be aired and of which, as a diagnosed kidney failure patient, I have become aware.

A senior GP in a progressive country practice vouchsafed to me recently, in response to my question, that if he or any of his partners were offered a pair of kidneys from the terminally ill, he was prepared to bet that none would have a notion as to the procedure to be adopted for acceptance; and even if that were overcome, in the event, his experience demonstrated that referring the subject to hospital doctors for action was likely to be met by a lukewarm response — that invariably they were too fully occupied or did not have the specialist technique available.

Perhaps the royal medical colleges working party should look urgently at the standard of communications between GPs and their renal unit colleagues throughout the country.

Yours faithfully,
T. H. CHESHIRE,
11 The Quadrangle,
Morden College,
Blackheath, SE3.

support services. It also enables disabled people to have a representative to speak up on their behalf in dealings with public authorities.

Of critical importance, the Act will require the needs of carers to be taken into account. Very often, those caring for sick, elderly and disabled people have minimal support and yet their untiring work enables a disabled person to remain at home rather than have to move into institutional care. This unpaid army of selfless people would at last have some formal recognition under the provisions of the 1986 Act.

It is a sad reflection on the values of the present Government that the Chancellor should be preparing a giveaway Budget at the very time that he cannot — or will not — afford the relatively small sum needed to make this Act fully operational.

Yours etc,
DAFYDD WIGLEY,
House of Commons,
January 21.

Bill of rights

From Sir James Fawcett, QC
Sir, On February 6 the House of Commons will at last have the opportunity of providing for the better protection of human rights in the United Kingdom, when it debates the Human Rights Bill presented by Sir Edward Gardner with wide all-party support. Similar Bills have already been passed more than once by the House of Lords.

Your leader of December 12 on this subject called the European Convention on Human Rights — by which her Majesty's Government has already been bound for 33 years, and which Sir Edward's Bill now seeks to incorporate into our domestic law — "vague" and "imprecise". I can only tell you that, during my 22 years as a member of the European Commission of Human Rights, for nine of which I served as its president, we did not find it so, nor do I have any reason to suppose that her Majesty's judges

Checks on local value for money

From the Controller of the Audit Commission for Local Authorities in England and Wales
Sir, I read your leader on January 15 ("A task half done") with interest. You raised a very important question which warrants an answer: What is being done to ensure that the value-improvement opportunities apparently available within the public service are delivered?

The Audit Commission deals only with local authorities in England and Wales. In this part of the public sector, at least, your readers can be reassured that machinery is in place to ensure that the potential management improvements are implemented.

As part of their annual audits of authorities' accounts, the auditors appointed by the commission investigate the extent to which their client authorities are achieving the standards of good management practice set out in the commission's various reports; and where there are substantial local opportunities, detailed recommendations are drawn up and agreed with the local council.

Every year some 1,400 local projects are completed. Implementation progress is then tracked every six months or so. Over the last year, the commission has looked at subjects ranging from housing maintenance to purchasing and from services for the elderly to further education.

During the present round of audits, auditors will be considering what has been achieved over the past four years in each authority to secure better value for local residents and ratepayers. There is no reason why these reports should not be available to the local public — and every reason why they should be.

As the commission's most recent annual report made clear, the performance of local authorities in securing better value for money over the past four years has been commendable: the commission has so far identified value-improvement opportunities that will be worth over £2 billion a year, once they have been fully implemented; and our information suggests that in most authorities these are being pursued energetically and effectively.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BANHAM, Controller,
The Audit Commission for Local Authorities in England and Wales,
1 Vincent Square, SW1,
January 23.

Aids and morals
From the Reverend B. E. Harbert
Sir, Christian commentators on the Aids crisis rightly indicate the need for a return to traditional values regarding marriage and family life. But there are people who will never find happiness in the married state, and it is a mistake to encourage them to embrace it. To help them, the Church needs to renew her esteem for another traditional value, that of friendship.

We have become reluctant to speak of chaste friendship and inhibited in its expression: Freud's uncovering of the sexual component in all our relationships is partly to blame. As a result, the Church has fallen silent about a valuable element in her heritage.

Christianity learnt from the ancient writers, in particular Plato, Aristotle and Cicero, a high regard for friendship; it was extolled by many of the Fathers and medieval authors, including Thomas Aquinas and the English Abbot Ailred, whose *On Spiritual Friendship* is a classic.

Friendship can flourish between members of the same or of opposite sexes. In a society where the language of love has been corrupted it will often be misunderstood. It requires self-control and sacrifice. It is not always won without struggles and falls. But Christian tradition shows that the road to happiness for some lies through friendship without marriage; and that such people, whether publicly consecrated to celibacy or not, have an honoured place in the Church.

The value and dignity of friendship should be at the centre of the Church's message to homosexual people; otherwise her response to their predicament runs the risk of appearing purely negative.

Yours faithfully,
BRUCE HARBERT,
The University of Sussex,
Meeting House,
Falmer,
Brighton,
Sussex.

Election phases

From Mr E. M. Syddique
Sir, In your leader today (January 21) you comment that the Irish Republic has produced more elections and more changes of government than is good for any country.

Since the Second World War, the United Kingdom has had 12 general elections, nine different prime ministers and 16 changes of government, if one includes changes of prime minister during the life of a Parliament. By comparison during the same period, the Irish Republic has had 12 general elections, seven different prime ministers and 14 changes of government, if one includes changes of prime minister during the life of a Dail.

It is true that during the 10-year period, 1972-1982, there were five general elections in the Irish Republic, but during the 10-year

ON THIS DAY

JANUARY 28 1905

Harrow School, with a list of distinguished old boys that includes Peel, Palmerston, Shaftesbury, Byron, Trollope and Cardinal Manning, had changed as much as the countryside surrounding it since 1571 when John Lyon was granted a charter by Queen Elizabeth to build a school "for the education of the poor children of Harrow". The Reverend Joseph Wood was headmaster from 1896-1910.

[SAVING HARROW'S ENVIRONMENT]

Year by year the great wilderness of houses which is London continues to spread over the face of the surrounding country. Country villages become suburbs, and presently, as new railroads, buses, or electric tramways bring them in closer touch with the centre, themselves acquire all the characteristics of purely urban districts. As a rule the old inhabitants are absorbed and disappear in the new population. But there are many to whom space and fresh air and all the other concomitants of country life are essentials, and these, unless they possess enough land of their own to be indifferent to what encircles it, or enough wealth to despise the offers of the speculative builder, are forced to uproot themselves from their old homes and old associations and migrate elsewhere. This process applies no less to institutions than to individuals, and to none more than to the great public schools which, whatever the deficiencies of their methods of instruction, yet exercise so great and valuable an influence upon the formation — one is almost tempted to say the standardization — of the national character. One after another the great schools in the centre of London have realised this and have transferred themselves to new surroundings. Charterhouse migrated many years ago, the Bluecoat School and King's College School have followed since. But even schools that a few years ago were in the heart of the country have now to leave the homes of old associations and traditions that such a move implies.

How this difficult problem is being solved in the case of one of England's greatest historic schools is set forth in the letter from Dr. WOOD, the Headmaster of Harrow, which appeared in our columns yesterday. Within the memory of most of our readers Harrow was a little country place on a hilltop, most easily accessible by a seven miles drive through open country. To-day the country road is an almost continuous street, and on all sides Greater London is closing in upon the pleasant fields that once surrounded JOHN LYON'S school. It is the hill itself, rising up to the ancient spire of Harrow Church — from whose little churchyard the eye commands a view of English landscape not easily to be surpassed — which is of the very essence of Harrow, as it has always been. And, as the hill cannot be transplanted, the school must stay.

Foreseeing this, patriotic Harrovians began nearly twenty years ago to urge the acquisition of land round the school. During BISHOP WELLDON'S reign a series of generous benefactors and subscribers enlarged the narrow boundaries of the school's possessions by some 180 acres. Two or three years ago Harrovians began to realize that far bolder measures were required, if the essential character of the school was to be preserved. Owing to the initiative of Dr. WOOD, a movement was set on foot for the purchase of some 250 acres adjoining the school football fields. This purchase has now been virtually completed, largely, as LORD GEORGE HAMILTON, one of the Governors of the school, informs us to-day, owing to the generosity of the HEADMASTER himself. With this addition, Harrow ought to be able to face the future without fear. Not only will it have ample open space for recreation, but it will permanently retain the beauty of its outlook. At least a mile of fields and trees will intervene between the school terrace and the encroaching city, while northwards, away from London, no spread of houses below can ever wholly shut out the distant view of the green heart of England from the churchyard on the hilltop. The purchase has been effected not without some difficulty, and only at the cost of a heavy mortgage on the newly acquired land, to redeem which both Dr. WOOD and LORD GEORGE HAMILTON appeal to the Harrovians among our readers. That they should succeed in this appeal seems eminently desirable.

period 1964-1974, the United Kingdom also had five general elections, which appears to suggest that countries go through phases. Yours sincerely,
E. M. SYDDIQUE,
42 St. Martins Drive,
Eynford,
Dartford, Kent,
January 21.

City upset
From Mr Adrian Room
Sir, Miles Kingston says ("Keeping the record bent", January 26) that there is no anagram for "Guinness".

How about "ensuing"? It's in the OED and there still seem to be plenty of them in the present affair. Yours faithfully,
ADRIAN ROOM,
173 The Causeway,
Petersfield, Hampshire,
January 26.

11/29/80 1.520

CURRY

the Common
ands in
horror

Executive Editor
Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1441.6 (+30.4)
FT-SE 100
1814.4 (+32.6)
Bargains
35800 (37845)
USM (Datastream)
139.92 (+0.35)
THE POUND
US Dollar
1.5320 (+0.0045)
W German mark
2.7699 (-0.0147)
Trade-weighted
68.8 (-0.1)

Shares hit new records

Share prices continued to hit new heights on the London stock market yesterday with investors again taking their cue from New York.

The FT index of top 30 shares reached its highest level ever, rising by 30.4 points to 1,441.6, helped by another firm start to trading on Wall Street where the Dow Jones industrial average was 32 points up during the first few hours of trading. In London, more than £4.5 billion was added to the value of quoted shares as investors chased prices, sharply higher. The broader FT-SE 100 also reflected the mood, surging through the 1,800 level with a leap of 32.6 to a record 1,814.4.

Market report, page 22
Wall Street, page 22

Joint premium rises illegal

The European Court of Justice yesterday ruled that attempts by West German insurance companies to set common price rises for industrial fire cover were illegal.

This confirmed the court's landmark ruling last month that could open the way for British and other EEC insurers to compete freely throughout the Common Market.

Tourism boost

Capital investment in big tourism and leisure projects rose to an estimated £961 million in the six months from last July to December, according to the English Tourist Board.

Profits fall

Mercantile House, the international financial services group, has reported pretax profits for the six months to the end of October down from £32.7 million to £27.1 million. Turnover rose 6 per cent to £195.6 million. An interim dividend of 4.25p was declared.

Racal rise

Interim pretax profits at Racal Electronics rose just 8 per cent to £25.1 million on turnover up 4 per cent to £640 million. The results were depressed by redundancy and severance pay costs of £1.5 million.

Bryant escape

English China Clays' £190 million offer for Bryant Holdings, the West Midlands housebuilder, lapsed yesterday after ECC received acceptances in respect of 45.7 per cent of Bryant's ordinary shares, including a 29.7 per cent stake it already owned.

Stock Market 22 Money Market 24
Wall Street 22 Foreign 24
City Diary 23 Trade 24
Tenders 23 Unit Trusts 26
Trends 23 Commodities 26
USM 23

MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York
Dow Jones 2141.09 (+30.75)
Tokyo
Nikkei Dow 19986.83 (+132.11)
Hong Kong
Hang Seng 2524.01 (+39.69)
Amsterdam Gen 263.1 (-1.8)
Sydney AO 1533.4 (-6.3)
Frankfurt
Commerzbank 1838.6 (-28.3)
Bunessau
General 4040.69 (-12.44)
Paris CAC 3483.0 (-0.50)
London FT-A n/a
FT-Gilt 85.37 (-0.12)
Closing prices Page 25
Recent issues Page 24

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base 11%
3-month interbank 11 1/8-11 1/4%
3-month eligible bills 10 1/4-10 1/2%
buying rate
US Prime Rate 7 1/8%
Federal Funds 6 1/8%
3-month Treasury Bill 5.48-5.47%
30-year bonds 10 1/2-10 3/4%

CURRENCIES

London
£/\$ 1.5320
£/DM 2.7699
£/Sfr 2.2323
£/FF 2.4955
£/Yen 232.32
£/Indec 68.8
ECU 20.742166

New York
\$/£ 0.6528
DM/\$ 0.618045
Sfr/\$ 1.4545
FF/\$ 6.5596
Yen/\$ 161.25
Indec 103.8
SDR 20.825778

No instant cure, Beckett warns

CBI optimism on exports

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Britain's manufacturers, exhilarated at last by a competitive pound and good export opportunities, are more optimistic about their business prospects than at any time in the past 18 months.

The Confederation of British Industry, revealing the results of its latest quarterly industrial trends survey, yesterday delivered a New Year message of rising order books, better output and a surge in efficiency-related capital investment.

With British goods 18 per cent more price competitive than 18 months ago, export optimism is at its best level for two years.

However, CBI leaders remained circumspect. Sir Terence Beckett, soon to retire as director-general of the CBI, issued what amounted to a warning both to commentators and Government not to regard industry's improved prospects as "an instant cure for the nation's ills."

Industry did not want the situation over-hyped, he said. "We do not have a new heaven and a new earth. As far as industry is concerned, the opportunities are there but we have to work at it."

A great deal of hard work was needed to win export orders and nobody should underestimate the scale of the job. "We have to convince the world that our new-found competitiveness is here to stay."

Sir Terence repeated the CBI view that any additional freedom held by Sir Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in his forthcoming Budget within the constraints of the Government's medium-term financial strategy, should be used to lower interest rates.

On the debit side, the survey results, covering 1,451 companies, show half the manufacturing industry is still working below full capacity and job losses are expected to continue at the rate of 7,000 a month.

"To maintain our competitiveness we have to get rid of a lot more people," Sir Terence said.

The CBI is predicting, however, that a big increase in employment in other sectors will bring unemployment down to under three million by 1988 and that a net 550,000 new jobs could be created.

A positive balance of 21 per cent of firms - the difference between those replying up and those replying down - expects a rise in export orders over the next four months.

But Sir Terence said he did not foresee exports alone taking the balance of payments out of the red, particularly as the forecast increase in consumer spending of 4.5 per cent this year would boost imports.

The survey shows that rising export optimism is particularly marked in the motor vehicle and transport equipment and food, drink and tobacco sectors, with positive balances of 36 per cent and 31 per cent respectively.

A balance of 7 per cent reported an increase in the volume of new orders over the past four months, the first positive balance since the summer of 1985. Only three large sectors have reported a fall in export orders, compared to seven last October.

Industry's costs are expected to rise faster in the next four months, with a positive balance of 29 per cent, compared with 8 per cent last July.

Manufacturers' average domestic prices are now rising faster than in the past two CBI surveys. A positive balance of 30 per cent expects accelerating price increases in the next four months, the highest level since April 1985.

Brighter view on jobless

By Rodney Low, Economics Editor

Economic forecasters are increasingly optimistic about a fall in unemployment, but the number of jobless is still expected to be above 3 million in the final three months of the year.

The latest comparison of independent forecasts compiled by the Treasury shows that the average prediction for unemployment in the fourth quarter of this year has fallen from 3.06 million a month ago to 3.04 million. Two months ago the average forecast was 3.1 million, not very different from the actual level of 3.12 million at present.

The better outlook on unemployment stems partly from a more optimistic view of the economy. On average, forecasters are now expecting a slightly higher growth rate this year - 2.7 per cent - than they were a few months ago.

Forecasts of export growth are creeping up while the increase in public spending plans has added to Government activity.

Consumer spending is also expected to continue expanding rather faster at 3.5 per cent.

But this carries with it a higher level of imports and the average expectation of a 23 billion balance of payments deficit is higher than thought in the autumn, although a little lower than last month's view.

The average view of inflation remains unchanged at 4.9 per cent by the final quarter of this year, compared with the present rate of 3.7 per cent.

Accounting firm may sue BTR

By Alison Radin

Coopers & Lybrand, the accounting firm, is threatening legal action against BTR after BTR's accusation that Coopers' document on BTR was "unprofessional, inaccurate and misleading."

Yesterday Coopers issued a statement refuting "wholly and completely" BTR's allegations. "In view of the seriousness of the accusations, legal advice has been sought," the statement continued.

Coopers produced the report on BTR during the conglomerate's bid for Pilkington Brothers. Coopers is Pilkington's auditor. The report was shown to some journalists and City institutions, but was not published.

BTR obtained a copy of earlier this week issued a list of what it called "substantial inaccuracies". BTR's synopsis, produced in association with its auditors, Ernst & Whinney, accuses Coopers of double-counting disposals like Crewe House and Dunlop Tyre Corporation and so miscalculating cash generation.

Sir Owen Green, chairman of BTR, said last night that BTR stood by its synopsis. He said Coopers' statement was uninformative.

Dollar falls again on economic fears

By Our Economics Correspondent

The dollar's fall resumed yesterday on fears of poor American economic news. Doubts about whether a Group of Five meeting will take place early next month added to uncertainties for the currency.

It fell from DM1.8230 to DM1.8080 and from ¥152.55 to ¥151.65. The pound showed a 45 point gain at \$1.5320, but lost ground against other currencies.

The dollar's fall came as the West German central bank withdrew from the market after providing support during the morning. Later in New York, the dollar was quoted at DM1.8050 and the pound rose to \$1.5360.

Mr James Baker, the US Treasury Secretary, was reported as saying that he knew nothing of an impending Group of Five meeting. The Japanese finance minister, Mr Kiichi Miyazawa, has called for one and there has been speculation that it will take place in Paris on February 7.

However, Herr Karl Otto Pöhl, president of the Bundesbank, expressed doubts about the value of a Group of Five meeting.

"One shouldn't expect too much from such conferences for a stabilization of the dollar, which I regard as desirable, if the contributions of the participants to the conference aren't clarified in advance," he said.

US durable goods orders, due today, are expected to be weak, and trade figures due on Friday continued to weigh against the dollar.

ConsGold inquiry urged

Minorco, which owns 28.34 per cent of Consolidated Gold Fields through a subsidiary, is pressing ConsGold to refer recent share buying in the company by Gold Fields of South Africa to the Department of Trade and Industry.

ConsGold, the international mining group, was told on Monday night that GFSA had increased its stake from 4.9 per cent to 2.8 per cent. ConsGold said it had told the DTI inspectors.

Mr Julian Ogilvie Thompson, chairman of Minorco, said that as GFSA had bought the shares without ConsGold's knowledge, he had asked Mr Rudolph Agnew, chairman of ConsGold, to refer the matter to the DTI.

British Bloodstock Agency profits pulled up

Reined-in half way out

By Teresa Poole, Business Correspondent

Declining prices at the top end of the bloodstock market have led to a halving in interim profits at the USM-quoted British Bloodstock Agency.

Major Christopher Philipson, the managing director, said: "As far as our share of the market is concerned, we could not be more pleased but it is against the background of falling prices."

At the High Fliers sale at Newmarket last year, the top price for a yearling was 600,000 guineas, the same as in 1985 but still well down on 1984's 1.4 million guineas.

In the six months to the end of September, BBA's pretax profits fell from £350,000 to £175,000 on turnover down 3 per cent at just under £2 million. The interim dividend is maintained at 2.5p.

BBA makes money by buying horses - around 800 this year - on commission for purchasers. The major European sales take place in the company's third quarter when market conditions, said the company, remained difficult.

At the Fatteralls December sale, the leading European bloodstock sale, the group purchased 250 horses, more than five times the number bought by its nearest competitor but prices were still depressed.

Profits have also suffered from a drop in insurance commissions which BBA receives from arranging cover for horses. Many of the important owners are now arranging their own insurance, including some Arab breeders who have built up impressive stables over the past few years.

In the last quarter of BBA's year the main sales take place in the Southern hemisphere, particularly Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.

The South African sales have been postponed from March until April because of an outbreak of equine flu, but African horse sickness has not a step to exports for a number of years making any threat of sanctions irrelevant.

Broker breaks Parnes link

By Lawrence Lever

Alexanders Laing & Cruickshank yesterday announced that it was "no longer associated" with Mr Anthony Parnes, the stockbroker who arranged a support deal in Guinness shares with Mr Gerald Ronson.

In a terse statement, the firm said that it is holding a "thorough internal investigation into the involvement of Mr AK Parnes in dealings during the Guinness bid for Distillers". The investigation is continuing and the results will be forwarded to the Stock Exchange.

The decision to sever the link between Laing and Mr Parnes followed a meeting of the two sides yesterday. According to Laing it investigated Mr Parnes' departure although a spokesman for Mr Parnes said the decision was taken by mutual consent.

Mr Parnes has been working for 4 1/2 years at the firm as a "half-commission man". This means that he is not actually an employee, but is allowed to use its name and facilities in return for sharing with the firm the commission he earns.

Mr Parnes is understood to be the "representative of the eminent firm of stockbrokers" named by Mr Ronson in his letter last week to Guinness explaining his role in the price support operations for Guinness shares.

Mr Ronson described an approach from Mr Parnes seeking support for the Guinness bid "shortly before January 23 1986".

According to documents filed at Companies House, Mr Parnes became a director of J Lyons Chamberlayne on January 28 1985. This company later received £300,000 from Guinness under an invoice for which the new Guinness board says it has no satisfactory explanation.

Mr Parnes is the second largest shareholder in J Lyons Chamberlayne, owning 17,000 of the 50,000 shares issued. Sir Jack Lyons, a fellow director and former adviser to Bain & Co, Guinness' management consultants, is the largest shareholder with 20,000 shares.

Mr Parnes is also believed to have arranged the purchase of a large number of Guinness shares by the Distillers pension fund after the Guinness bid went through.

A Stock Exchange member, Mr Robert Titchener-Barrett, has been censured for "dishonourable conduct" after a disciplinary committee hearing on charges relating to discretionary accounts under his management. Mr Titchener-Barrett is understood to have been working for the stockbroker Strauss Turnbull at the time.

In a statement yesterday the disciplinary committee said his conduct had been dishonourable in respect of dealings in shares that had been suspended by the Council of the Stock Exchange, and that his conduct had been improper in respect of certain dealings for which he ought to have obtained the discretionary approval of his firm along with certain written agreements from clients.

"His conduct has also been found improper on the score of exceeding the limit of discretion given by a client, causing the client's account to be in debit on 13 out of 14 consecutive accounts."

City diary, page 23



Lord King at yesterday's presentation: strong foreign demand predicted

BA flies in at 125p a share

By Ray Heath

The price of British Airways shares has been fixed at 125p each, valuing the company at £900 million, slightly at the lower end of some City estimates.

The final price was revealed in another day of media events which included son et lumiere presentations in the morning at the Barbican arts centre in the City and in the evening on the River Thames in front of the Royal Festival Hall.

The 125p offer price for the 720,200,000 shares on offer valued the company at 6.3 times forecast earnings, or 9.5 times assuming the company was paying tax at 35 per cent. The forecast dividend yield is 6.8 per cent, covered 2.2 times on a 35 per cent tax charge.

Payment for the shares is in two instalments, 65p immediately and 60p on August 18. The minimum application is for 400 shares.

Analysts were yesterday predicting strong demand for the shares, particularly among foreign investors.

The number of shares being offered in the United States, Canada, Japan and Switzerland is 147.4 million, or 20 per cent of the total. The prospectus contains protection clauses to limit overseas investment to a maximum of around 35 per cent.

In the United Kingdom 325.2 million shares are being placed with selected institutions, and 247.6 million are being offered to the public and employees.

If the public offer is oversubscribed around three times, 20 per cent of the shares allocated to UK institutions and foreign investors will be clawed back to meet the demand.

City analysts yesterday suggested that this was highly likely.

China buys into Cathay Pacific

From Stephen Leather, Hong Kong

China's investment bank is taking a 12.5 per cent stake in Hong Kong's airline, Cathay Pacific, in a move seen as China's most public vote of commercial confidence in the crown colony to date.

The state-owned China International Trust and Investment Corporation (Citic) is paying HK\$1,936bn (£165m) for the holding.

Cathay is issuing 212.2 million new shares at HK\$55 per share, while a major shareholder, Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, is selling 145.9 million of its shares at HK\$6 each.

As a result of the deal the stake of the airline's parent company, Swire Pacific, will fall from 34.25 per cent to 30.23 per cent, while Hongkong Bank's holding will drop from 23.25 per cent to 16.43 per cent.

Cathay shares were suspended on Monday morning at HK\$55.60. They were first listed in May last year at HK\$3.88 after a massive oversubscription and closed on the first day at HK\$5.15, a 33 per cent premium to the issue price.

Since then the shares have underperformed the market. The deal shows China's commitment to the airline, and could be a blow to Dragonair, the fledgling operation backed by the shipping tycoon Sir YK Pao and thought to have had the confidence of the mainland.

Mr Michael Miles, chairman of Swire and Pacific, said yesterday: "Beijing's support for Cathay Pacific amounts to nearly HK\$2bn, which is putting their money where their support is. It is also a significant investment in Hong Kong's future prosperity."

Bank move to tighten controls

By David Smith

Economics Correspondent

The Bank of England confirmed yesterday that it has written to about 25 bank chairmen in an effort to ensure that control procedures are operating properly in corporate finance departments.

The letter, which has been prompted by the involvement of Morgan Grenfell and Henry Ansbacher in the Guinness affair, has been sent to the chairmen of the clearing banks and the accepting houses.

It asks the banks to run through an illustrative checklist dealing with relationships with clients, methods of recruitment, the introduction of new recruits to the house philosophy of the bank and the acquisition of new clients.

The exercise, which is regarded as a tightening-up of Bank of England supervision within the corporate finance area, is intended to form the basis for future supervisory interviews with banks.

One clear implication of this - together with the Bank's role in securing the resignation of Mr Christopher Reeves, the Morgan Grenfell chief executive - is that those at the top in banks should be aware of what is happening in corporate finance departments and are ultimately responsible.

The Bank is understood to have been moving towards a tightening-up of supervision in banks' corporate finance activities, but the Guinness affair has prompted earlier action than would have otherwise been the case.

It has received responses to an earlier letter, requesting information on lending to individuals and examining bad-debt experience in this area. But no details are yet available.

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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Gone to ground

Tony Parnes, the erstwhile Laing & Cruckshank half-commission man named as the go-between between Guinness and Gerald Ranson has, I hear, had more than the occasional tête-à-tête with the DIT's investigators. The growing assumption that he must by now be "naming names" is sending shock waves through his long list of influential City clients. Parnes — known on the floor of the exchange as "the animal" — is believed to hold the key to the identities of the other beneficiaries of the indemnified Guinness share deals. With his co-operation the investigators could be saved months of tedious paper work.

Never normally far from a phone — and his next deal — the flamboyant Parnes, whose brother-in-law is Gerald Rafter, chairman of the jewellery chain, has been uncharacteristically elusive of late. He is believed to have gone to ground in his £4 million Hampstead mansion. It is not, however, the first time his luxury pad has been used as a hideaway. In 1979 he sheltered Rolf Schild, chairman of USM-quoted Huntleigh Technology, while Schild's wife and daughter were being held by kidnappers in Sardinia. Parnes even flew to Sardinia to negotiate with the bandits and handled the sale of stock owned by Schild to pay for the ransom.



"Owing to share-buying decision, you may experience some inner turbulence"

Good words

As Lord Goodman said to a deafening chorus of assent: "There can hardly be a publicly-quoted company which could not find its ownership transferred to another company, not even necessarily larger or richer. I do not believe that this is a problem that can be resolved by improved take-over codes or even by looking across the Atlantic for guidance from the American SEC. I believe that any solution requires the firm recognition that the issues involved transcend the interest of shareholders, and that, virtuous as they may be as a class, our devotion to their interests, regardless of other factors, is misguided and damaging to the national picture." Is there anything new? The wisest living Englishman was writing on the subject of takeover bids in *The Sunday Times* of January 12, 1969.

Bid premium

Anthony Pilkington, had a double celebration last week: he won a £1,000 premium bond prize just four days before BTR withdrew its fiercely-contested takeover bid for the "family" firm. "I read it as a good omen and had a feeling that we would win," he told me. To celebrate Anthony is taking a ski-ing holiday with his wife. "We booked it for after the 60th day so I've now got another month to wait." The Pilkingtons like the occasional celebration. Anthony's cousin, eccentric Harry, who was chairman when the company was floated in 1970, marked the occasion by treating himself to a new bicycle cape.

Goose cooked

Sir Donald Gosling was down at Tower Pier last night checking over his £3m yacht *Brave Goose*, after its narrow scrape through Richmond bridge. The 350-tonne luxury sea vessel grounded itself in the mud of the Thames after trying to squeeze under the bridge and was eventually freed by Thames Water tugs on the first tide yesterday morning. Sir Donald, chairman of privately-owned National Car Parks, said: "We hadn't taken the extra water from the melting snow into our calculations. We managed to get it through yesterday with exactly three inches to spare. You couldn't have stood a wine glass on it." The all-British boat will complete its sea trials next month and will then sail down to the Med. It will cost around £300,000 a year to run but Sir Donald tells me he will more than recoup that from chartering fees.

Carol Leonard

TRENDS

Hidden dangers in the takeover explosion

In business, big is beautiful, and the tide is still turning towards greater industrial concentration

MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS

	Number of companies acquired	Expenditure on acquisitions (£m)
1980	489	1,475
1981	453	1,144
1982	463	2,205
1983	447	2,344
1984	568	5,475
1985 Q1	104	1,982
Q2	100	1,900
Q3	148	2,222
Q4	122	985
1986 Q1	108	2,092
Q2	128	5,379
Q3	207	2,831

Source: Department of Trade & Industry

ample, the top five producers accounted for 59 per cent of output.

In pharmaceuticals, the top five figure was 35 per cent; in basic electrical equipment 48 per cent; telecommunications equipment 49 per cent; metal-working machine tools 13 per cent and other machinery and mechanical equipment also 13 per cent.

Stuck between the 1980-81 recession and the 1985-86 takeover boom, the figures have a doubtful usefulness. However, they do tell us that even after the recession of the early Eighties, when industries such as engineering and machine tools were particularly hard hit, these industries remained competitive, in the sense of output being divided among a large number of producers.

This is notable because there has been a clear change in the pattern of takeover activity over the past few years. In 1980, the average value of each acquisition was just £3.1 million, fitting the popular view that smaller, recession-hit companies were being mopped up at knock-down prices.

More recently, there has been a shift towards mega-mergers. The reason for the surge to £6.4 billion in the amount spent on takeovers in the second quarter of last year was principally the inclusion in that quarter of the £2.56 billion Hanson Trust acquisition of Imperial, and the now notorious £2.53 billion takeover of Distillers by Guinness.

It is, therefore, possible to view recent takeover activity in two distinct stages. In the early Eighties, there was some swallowing up of troubled companies hit by the recession. But this occurred when takeover activity in total was at a much lower level — partly because many potential predators were also experiencing recession difficulties — and does not appear to have resulted in a significant increase in industrial concentration.

The 1985-86 merger boom, in contrast, has occurred during a period of buoyant company profitability and has featured, in the largest examples at least, takeovers across industries rather than within them.

Of course, takeovers across industries can result in a reduction in competition if it is possible, for example, for a large company to force rivals out of the market by undercutting through cross-subsidization from the other industries in which the firm operates.

But, in the specific sense of concentration within individual industries, the great takeover boom does not yet appear to have resulted in a large increase.

One can argue that this, set against the Government's goals, is a modest achievement. It does not say a great deal for the small business revolution if the pattern since 1979 has been for an increase in industrial concentration, albeit a gentle one.

There has been an increase in the number of small businesses in Britain during the 1980s, although it is dwarfed by the much larger surge claimed for the number of people self-employed.

As measured by the number of businesses registering for VAT, and set against numbers de-registering, there was a 150,000 increase in the number of small businesses between 1980 and 1985.

Not all of these will have been new businesses, some may have simply climbed to the VAT threshold. And the figures do not include those businesses exempt from VAT.

The number of self-employed people in Britain increased from 1.95 million in the middle of 1980 to 2.745 million in the middle of last year, a rise of nearly 800,000.

Much of the growth in small businesses and self-employment occurred as a result of larger companies contracting out work. Apart from the earlier recession, this is one reason why manufacturing employment has continued to decline. Companies are paying outsiders to undertake some work previously carried out by staff on the payroll.

Even if this trend continues, the output of these small businesses and self-employed people will not affect measures of industrial concentration. It will be subsumed within the output of larger companies.

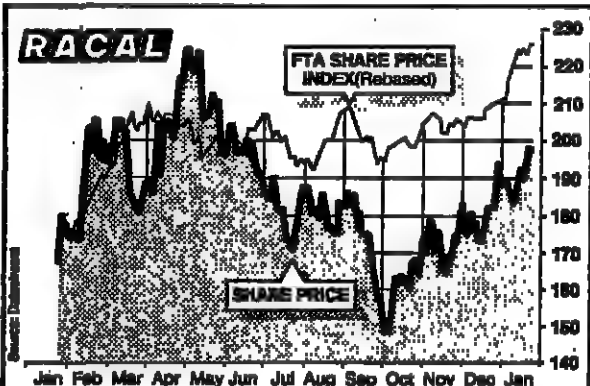
In some sectors where the growth of small businesses has been strong over a number of years — retailing, for example — this has occurred within a sector that is strong. Growth in the number of small businesses has not prevented increased concentration in most types of retailing.

The boom in the value, if not the number of takeovers, reached a peak in the second quarter of last year, which is unlikely to be assailed for a number of years. But even a continuation of takeover activity at a more subdued pace for a number of years would result in a steady increase in industrial concentration. And even the continued growth in the number of small businesses will not prevent that from happening.

David Smith
Economics Correspondent

TEMPUS

Sid will be welcomed aboard BA flight 125



were much better than expected and two, Security and Radar, were disappointing.

The low oil price was blamed for the poor performance in both the marine and energy and the radio communications divisions, which each lost £3 million in the six months to October 10.

In marine and energy, the weak tanker market is expected to persist. Losses will continue in the second half, despite cost reductions, but a modest profit is expected next year.

Losses in radio communications were due to the inability of its oil-exporting customers to finance their purchases. This division should make a profit in the full year.

The divisions which performed much better than expected were data communications and telecommunications. Data communications made £15.7 million in the half year, against £1.8 million last year. The group is moving away from the commodity end of this business, but this performance has also been helped by cost cutting and a buoyant market.

Vodafone, the telecommunications subsidiary, continues to exceed expectations. It now has 67,000 subscribers and should break even at the operating level this year. Racal is budgeting for 950 new subscribers a month.

The company is now looking to Chubb, its security division, as a second growth business. But the 4 per cent increase in interim profits to £12.1 million from this source was a big disappointment, and the company will have its work cut out to convince the market that it can do better.

Buying out the minority in Vodafone earlier this year has left Racal with 64 per cent gearing, a level which should fall to below 57 per cent by the end of the financial year.

Analysts are looking for £102 million to £112 million pretax for the full year. The prospective multiple of 18.5 discounts Vodafone's success.

and looks over-inflated unless the group can unlock profits from security.

The shares are too expensive to buy, but highly rated paper will allow the group to pursue acquisitions in the security business.

Mercantile House

The market had not been expecting much from Mercantile House but, even so, the extent of the first-half shortfall threw dealers off balance. The price dropped, reflecting their disappointment and the lowering of full-year forecasts.

A dull gilt market combined with the exceptional costs associated with the securities operation, Alexander Laing and Cruckshank, spent disaster for investment banking activities which made a loss. At best, they will break even by the year end.

Brighter spots include Marshalls, the money broker, and Oppenheimer, the US mutual fund. It is going from strength to strength with about \$10 billion (£6.5 billion) under management.

The contribution from related companies reflects the reduced shareholding in the US operations. OpCap (fund management) and OpCo (securities).

The high tax charge is attributable to the greater proportion of US profits combined with an exceptional liability to withholding tax. It will remain high this year but should drop to nearer 45 per cent in 1987-88.

Sceptics remain nervous about the future of the profit-sharing partnership between the William Street Group's fixed interest broker and its customers. As yet it is faring better than expected.

The second half of the year is unlikely to be as strong as the first so full-year profits will be nearer to £50 million than £60 million. The rating of the shares is abnormally high owing to the high tax charge and persistent takeover speculation. On trading grounds alone, however, there is little justification for the current price.

COMMENT Kenneth Fleet

Time for the Bank to wield a big stick

There is nothing new about merchant banks and stockbrokers sailing as close as possible to the wind in takeover situations. And, as the Bank of England will no doubt soon discover, it may need a big stick to counter this natural tendency for long. Dirty tricks led to the setting up of the Takeover Panel and its Code. Not long afterwards, it became clear that a rebuke from the Panel for acting too vigorously in the interest of a client was far from being disastrous publicity in the search for new clients. That in turn led to the panel being beefed up and its rules becoming much more systematic and detailed.

But the status and authority of institutions go in cycles and there is no doubt that the Takeover Panel has been on the downslope for some time.

The Governor, Robin Leigh-Pemberton, is only too well aware that the fingers of those calling for action to save the good name of the government's legal framework for the City — let alone the good name of the financial markets — are pointing at the Bank parlour where he presides.

He has responded in three ways. The Bank has subtly let it be known that it demanded the heads of bankers at Morgan Grenfell and Ansbachers (though demanded is not a word in the Bank's own vocabulary).

It has sent a letter to some 25 merchant banks warning them to review the control systems of their corporate finance departments to ensure that those most successful at bringing in the fees do not suppose they have 007 designation.

The message is clearly that, after this letter, top men in multifaceted banks cannot claim immunity from the indiscretions of their subordinates.

Lastly — though surely not finally — the Governor warned in his speech to the Institute of Bankers in Scotland on Monday night that the informal and flexible regulation of takeover tactics was in jeopardy if those who use it do not behave better.

"If practitioners do not respect the system, we shall have little choice but to replace it with one incorporating statutory powers of enforcement and statutory sanctions".

That is not the language the City usually hears from the Governor and his tone will be noticed.

A Panel operating with statutory powers, or at least transparently able to call on the Bank of England's statutory powers, might not be a bad thing. Indeed, it might seem the logical alternative to coming within the ambit of the Securities and Investments Board under the Financial Services Act, which it declined to do. Its anomalous status, if not its judgments, have already been challenged to some effect in the courts.

The Panel has chiefly been undermined, however, because some basic parts of its code have not caught up with the increasing sophistication of the takeover industry. The rise of professional arbitrageurs and financiers taking freelance positions in the hope of drumming up takeovers have tilted the effect of the rules in favour of bidders. So has the practice of merchant banks taking large positions in aid of their clients.

The increasing need for cash alternatives has led banks to take on huge if short-lived underwriting risks as well as obligations to underwriting syndicates. The temptation to support share prices and get round the prohibition on buying shares in the victim company above the bid price has grown accordingly. That tilting balance has led defenders to engage in equally risky and even more questionable counter measures.

The rules need to be rewritten to take account of the new balance. They should reduce permitted purchases of the victim companies. And they must drastically curtail or even eliminate dealings by either side in the shares of bidders or their rivals. That would certainly have cut away some of the scandal over Guinness, though it might have made life harder for the Government over Westland.

Stage set for export boom

Devaluation may not be such a bad idea after all. Although the US balance of payments has yet to reflect the impact of the long fall in the dollar, a more competitive level for sterling is presenting industry in Britain with its best opportunity for some time.

The latest temperature-taking by the Confederation of British Industry confirms that the outlook for exports is healthy. Of the near-1,500 companies responding to the CBI's quarterly trends survey, a balance of 21 per cent expect export deliveries to increase over the next four months, up from 11 per cent in October. There is also a positive balance of 21 per cent expecting higher export orders. It is the most optimistic showing for two years.

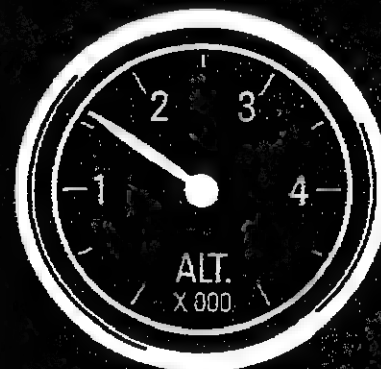
The history of devaluations is one of a more competitive exchange rate being offset sooner or later — and usually sooner — by higher pay increases as wage bargainers seek to recoup the effects of higher inflation on their standard of living. This may yet occur, but present economic circumstances are more favourable than usual.

Although inflation is expected to rise slightly in the middle of the year, cheap commodity prices will keep it at a

relatively low rate by recent standards. At the same time, productivity is rising rapidly, not least because domestic demand is buoyant and output can be increased to meet it without any commensurate increase in the numbers employed. Recently, unit costs have been rising even more slowly than in West Germany. And there are at least some signs of restraint on the pay front.

The boost which exports may give to output this year seems to have dawned on forecasters only rather slowly. The Treasury's monthly review of forecasts shows that exports this year are expected on average to rise by 3.8 per cent compared with 3.2 per cent expected by forecasters three months ago. Judging by the CBI information, it may be wise to upgrade this further.

Much could go wrong with the happy prospect outlined to the CBI. A trade war such as that brewing between the EEC and US this month could badly undermine the prospect of an increase in world trade this year. But given a reasonable level of demand emerging in the industrialized countries following last year's fall in oil prices, British manufacturers are well placed.



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APPOINTMENTS

Midland Bank Group: Mr Eugene Lockhart becomes chief executive, information technology, and a member of the group's executive committee.

Morgan Grenfell Securities: Mr Tony Bohannon is made a director.

Valin Pollen: Mr Charles Downing, Miss Juliet Jordan and Miss Penny Rome have joined the board.

James Ferguson Holdings: Mr Stanley Wright becomes a non-executive director.

Atco: Mr Roger Russell-Smith is now technical director and Mr Ian Doughty manufacturing director.

Howden Group: Mr K Johnson becomes group chief executive and Mr R Watson joins the group as finance director.

MTM Development Capital: Mr Richard Connell is now managing director.



MEPC: Mr J Tuckey becomes deputy managing director.

Persimmon Homes: Mr Michael Allea has been appointed chairman of Persimmon Homes (Anglia).

Ryarrs Brick: Mr R Schmidt-Hansen is made chairman and managing director and Mr N Bright and Mr B Prime become directors.

CompAir Holman: Mr Keith Marks becomes finance director.

Castell Safety International: Mr John Zarro is made managing director.

RECENT ISSUES

EQUITIES	
Airtel (220)	150
British Gas (220)	80 1/2
Cap & Regional (80p)	96
Daniel's (130p)	105 1/2
Fletcher King (175p)	101 1/2
Geyer (80p)	114 1/2
Geist (125p)	186 1/2
Glenfries (160p)	48
Gordon Russell (190p)	218
Guthrie Corp (150p)	161
Hale Homes (80p)	120 1/2
Harmony Leisure (23p)	20
Horby (100p)	95 1/2
Hoskins (120p)	170 1/2
Johnson Fry (150p)	103 1/2
Lon Am Int (1/2p)	150
Lloyds Chemist (100p)	148 1/2
Lughele (60p)	81 1/2
Mill (140p)	108 1/2
Mezzanin (180p)	111 1/2
Maybank (100p)	119
Mojo (150p)	297
Northern Food (80p)	118
Pum Hops (80p)	119
Spandor (130p)	176
Sunlit (130p)	176
TSE Chan (100p)	109
TSE Group (100p)	81 1/2
Vega (140p)	107 1/2
Ward Group (97p)	107 1/2
Willing Off (120p)	158 1/2

RIGHTS ISSUES

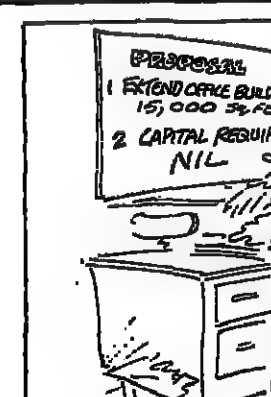
Amor Bus F/P	8 1/2
Burgess Prod N/P	141
Frederick F/P	85
Marting F/P	85
Partridge F/P	107 1/2
Walker (Aired) N/P	98

(Issue price in brackets).

BASE LENDING RATES

AIM	11.00%
Adam & Company	11.00%
BCCI	11.00%
Citibank Savings	12.45%
Consolidated Crds	11.00%
Co-operative Bank	11.00%
C. Hoare & Co	11.00%
Hong Kong & Shanghai	11.00%
Lloyds Bank	11.00%
Nat Westminster	11.00%
Bank of Scotland	11.00%
TSB	11.00%
Citibank NA	11.00%

† Mortgage Base Rate.



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Marine insurers stay afloat amid world shipping slump

By Alison Eadie

After several disastrous years, marine insurers fared better last year despite the continuing worldwide shipping slump, according to the annual report of the Institute of London Underwriters (ILU).

Shipping and aviation losses were lower last year, although the damage to the Dutch submarine *Walrus* could still prove to be the largest single marine claim of all time, the report said. The submarine, damaged by fire in a Rotterdam floating dock, had an insured value of £111 million. The latest repair cost estimates are £85 million.

Hull casualty statistics for 1986 showed that 156 ships, totalling 1.21 million gross tons, were lost compared with 189 ships, totalling 1.29 million gross tons, in 1985. However, air and sea strikes in the Arabian Gulf by Iran and Iraq doubled last year to affect 98 vessels.

Aviation losses recovered after the worst year on record in 1985. A total of 15 jet airliners with a value of \$119 million (£79 million) were lost, compared with 18 jets in 1985, valued at \$400 million. Liability losses arising from passenger deaths also fell with

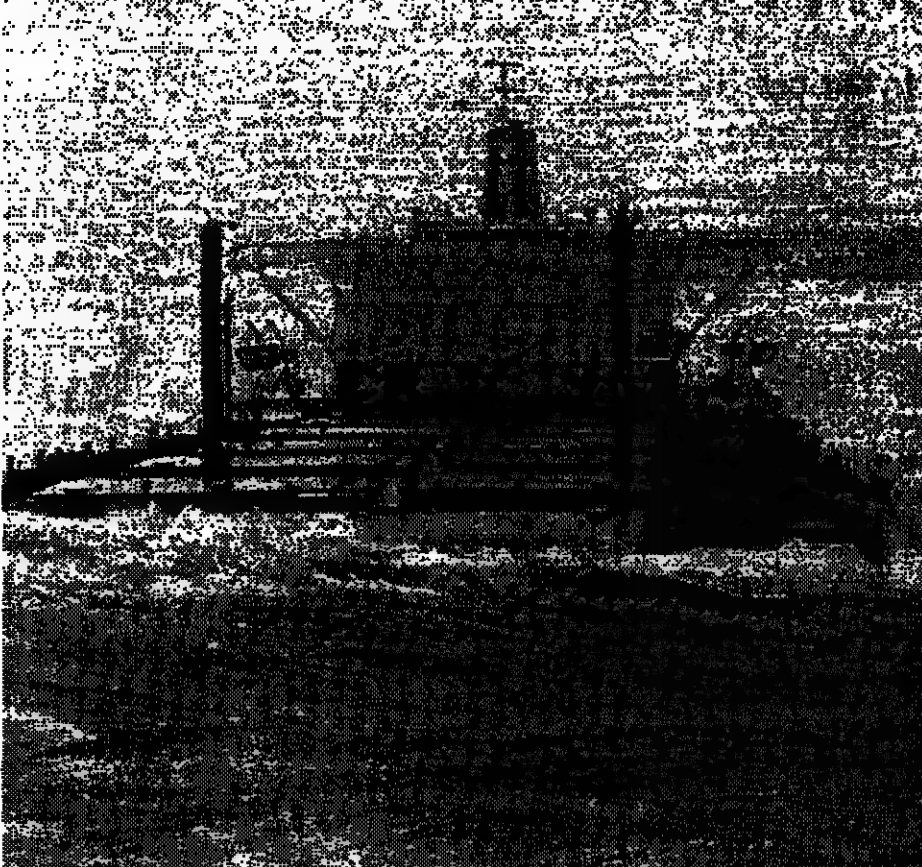
392 deaths last year, compared with 1,534 in 1985.

The offshore industry was a problem area with half the world's drilling rig fleet inactive. Although the number of wells being drilled was greatly reduced, losses were still sufficiently large to deplete severely the already diminishing volume of premium, the report said.

Last year witnessed the largest ever jack-up drilling rig loss, when the Mexico 11 sank to the seabed after a fire causing damage valued at \$52.5 million. The ILU expressed concern about the "stacking" of idle rigs, particularly where there were large accumulations in exposed areas both on and offshore.

Flagging-out was also a cause for concern. The ILU pointed out that tonnage registered under the British flag was for the first time smaller than that of the flag-of-convenience fleet controlled by British-registered companies.

Mr David Lowen, ILU chairman, said growth in pure marine direct business could not be expected in the foreseeable future and the prolonged shipping depression meant that old tonnage was not being replaced by new,



On the rocks: the 54,000-ton bulk carrier Kowloon Bridge off the coast of southern Ireland

De Laurentiis goes public in Australia

Sydney (AP-Dow Jones) — Mr Dino De Laurentiis, the American film producer, said he will offer Australian investors shares in De Laurentiis Entertainment Ltd, a new film production and distribution company being formed in Australia.



De Laurentiis branching out into Australia

Paradise, in the state of Queensland. The state government will help to finance the studio.

The new company will also distribute US and other films in Australia and New Zealand, and will distribute Australian films in the US. It aims ultimately to become involved in theatre and television production, and television and video distribution, Mr De Laurentiis said.

The company expects to produce five films by the end of 1988 with production budgets ranging between \$5 million (£2.15m) and \$10 million.

It will build a studio 17 kilometres north of Surfers

Bid for car dealer lifted

By Our City Staff

Giltrap Holdings, the New Zealand car distributor, has raised its bid for the east London car dealer Frank G Gates to £11.7 million and declared the offer final.

Giltrap is now offering 140p a share cash, a 20p increase on

the previous offer. There is a loan note alternative.

Gates has released details of a recent valuation of its land and property assets showing net assets of £14 million, or 167p a share. It has estimated a 26 per cent increase in pretax profits in 1986 to £1.4 million.

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

Local Authority Deposits (%)	
2 days 10%	7 days 10%
1 month 10%	3 months 10%
6 months 10%	12 months 10%

Local Authority Deposits (%)	
1 month 11%-11 1/2%	2 month 11%-11 1/2%
3 month 11%-11 1/2%	6 month 11%-11 1/2%
9 month 11%-11 1/2%	12 month 11%-11 1/2%

EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %

Treasury Bills (Discount %)	
3 month 10%	6 month 10%
9 month 10%	12 month 10%

Fixed Rate Starting Export Finance

Fixed Rate Starting Export Finance	
3 month 10%	6 month 10%
9 month 10%	12 month 10%

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Allied Lyons (230)	
300	52 60 70 25 11
350	52 60 70 25 11
400	52 60 70 25 11

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Allied Lyons (230)	
300	52 60 70 25 11
350	52 60 70 25 11
400	52 60 70 25 11

COMPANY NEWS

BERISFORDS GROUP: Following the announcement on Jan. 22 that Ferguson Industrial Holdings had agreed to make an offer for the capital not already owned, Arthur Latham Bank, the financial adviser to Ferguson, has purchased 25,000 ordinary shares in Berisfords at 152p. Ferguson together with its associates is now interested in 2.77 million ordinary shares (50.6 per cent).

HABIT PRECISION ENGINEERING: Total dividend lifted to 2p (1.75p) for the year to Sept. 30. Turnover £13.42 million (£9.49 million). Pretax profit £1.05 million (£642,000). Earnings per share 7.4p (5.01p). The board reports that the current year has started satisfactorily and it expects further growth. In the past four years, Habit has acquired 11 new businesses. Several substantial acquisitions are under review.

STANDARD SECURITIES: Total dividend 4.5p (4.03p) for the year to Sept. 30. Gross income £3.78 million (£3.47 million). Pretax profit £1.87 million (£1.71 million). Earnings per share 11.3p (8.22p). At the year-end, net assets were £26.74 million — equal to 232p per share or 216p fully diluted (1985: 217p and 205p respectively).

HOLMES & MARCHANT: In connection with the acquisition of the Biggs Communications Group (Holding Company) and certain other associates, Cazenove, on behalf of the vendors of Biggs, has placed 333,758 ordinary shares at 290p each.

GT JAPAN INVESTMENT TRUST: Interim payment unchanged at 0.4p for the six months to Dec. 31. Pretax profit £363,780 (£254,286). Earnings per share diluted 0.90p (0.62p) and undiluted 0.86p (0.58p).

GOAL-PETROLEUM: Premier Consolidated Offshore recently sold its 8.03 million shares in Goal to Kleinwort Greaves Securities which, in turn, has sold a holding of 8.13 million shares to Clyde Petroleum. With other recent purchases of 850,000 shares, Clyde now owns 12.2 per cent of Goal's capital. Morgan Grenfell no longer has a notifiable interest in the company. Significant shareholdings in Goal are now Norwich Union Life (27.2 per cent); Prudential Assurance (8.2 per cent); Investors in Industry (4.8 per cent); Broomfield Investments (4.7 per cent); Electro Investment Trust (4.7 per cent).

ALISA INVESTMENT TRUST: Six months to Nov. 30. Interim dividend 1p (1p), payable on March 15. Net pretax revenue £1.36 million (£1.75 million). Earnings per share 1.81p (2.17p). The income from portfolio investments and the revenue reserves enables the board to forecast a final dividend no lower than that for 1985-86 (1.5p).

KLEINWORT, BENSON: The group has formed a new investment management company in Japan — Kleinwort Benson Investment Management. It will provide investment advice and handle investment accounts. It will also operate as an independent fund-management company and provide investment advisory services in world markets for clients in Japan and in the Japanese equity market for its affiliate, Kleinwort Greaves Investment Management, in London.

ATLANTIC ASSETS TRUST: Half-year to Dec. 31. Pretax revenue £974,000 (£995,000). Earnings per share 0.50p (0.34p).

COMPAC: The company has entered into a joint venture agreement with British Land for the development of the Brunel Centre, a 4.54-acre site in the London Docklands Enterprise Zone. Talks for the non-recourse financing for a major part of the development costs are advanced.

BOC GROUP: Edwards High Vacuum International, a group division, has bought Danatronics of Wilmington, Massachusetts, US, from Dresser Industries. Danatronics makes capacitance-type pressure and vacuum sensors, mass-flow controllers and gas-control systems as well as optical encoders for motion-control applications.

GREYHOUND CORP: Mr John Teets, the chairman, reports that the company has started talks on the sale of Verco Corp and its subsidiaries. It appears that an all-cash sale of Verco can be completed at a price well above the company's current level of investment.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Three Month Starting	
Mar 87	93.30
Jun 87	93.30
Sep 87	93.30
Dec 87	93.30

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Three Month Starting	
Mar 87	93.30
Jun 87	93.30
Sep 87	93.30
Dec 87	93.30

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Allied Lyons (230)	
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350	52 60 70 25 11
400	52 60 70 25 11

Japan continues curb on car exports to US

Tokyo (AP-Dow Jones) — Japan will continue to hold down car exports to the United States to 2.3 million units in the fiscal year beginning in April, the International Trade and Industry Minister, Hajime Tamura, announced yesterday.

The ministry said that the decision was taken in consideration of developments affecting Japan-US economic relations.

The Japanese government has been restraining car exports to the US for the past six years, despite opposition from domestic carmakers, in an attempt to forestall trade friction with Washington.

Mr Tamura said the government decided to continue the restrictions in the light of the rising tide of protectionism in the American Congress which might worsen trade relations between the two countries.

A string of protectionist bills are pending in Congress as the huge US trade deficit has not diminished, despite the dollar's sharp decline for more than a year.

The government was well aware, Mr Tamura said, that many Japanese carmakers had been suffering seriously from the year's sharp appreciation. However, it had made the decision in the overall national interest.

The yen's upturn has made Japanese cars more expensive in overseas markets and has been curbing exports. The Trade Ministry also said the government took US market conditions into consideration in making the decision to continue the restrictions.

He stressed that the decision was the government's own, made without interference from the US Government or from the US car industry.

He added, however, that he was convinced Americans would welcome it.

The continuation of the restrictions would apply only for fiscal 1987, he said, adding that the government would consider what it should do for 1988 after reviewing developments, including US trade relations. The government would decide on the quota for each domestic car maker before April.

Mr Tamura also said he did not believe the continuation of Japan's export controls would push up the price of cars in the US.

Leading Japanese car makers have started or are in the process of starting car production in the US. But Mr Tamura stressed the need to strike a balance between exports from Japan and Japanese cars made in America. There is concern that Japanese cars, imported and made in the US, may flood the US market, creating further trade friction.

However, he thought Japanese car production in the US was good, contributing, for instance, to employment. Domestic car makers responded to the government's decision with resignation.

Mr Shoichiro Toyoda, president of Toyota Motor Corp, Japan's largest car manufacturer, said: "While the decision is an unfortunate one, I feel that it was unavoidable." Mr Toyota Tate, president of Mitsubishi Motors Corp, echoed this view.

The trade ministry was reported to have been sounding out each major domestic car maker on the possibility of continuing the controls since the beginning of the year while studying the US protectionist movement.



Traffic jam: Japanese cars await collection from the quayside

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES	
Market rates	day's range
London	1.5270-1.5280
Montreal	2.0580-2.0590
Amsterd.	3.1200-3.1210
Bremen	2.57-2.57 1/2
Cyprus	10.5250-10.5260
Frankfurt	2.787-2.788
Geneva	1.0417-1.0418
London	214.28-214.29
Madrid	165.75-165.76
Paris	170.27-170.28
Stockholm	10.770-10.772
Switzerland	9.2441-9.2452
Tokyo	232.35-232.37
Vienna	19.49-19.50
Zurich	2.2318-2.2320

Sterling bank rates with 1979 year dates at 8.5% (day's range 8.5%-8.5 1/2%)

OTHER STERLING RATES

Argentine	
1.2025-2.0158	1.2025-2.0158
Australia dollar	2.3032-2.3072
Bahian dollar	0.5725-0.5775
Brazil cruzeiro	34.44-35.57
Cyprus pound	0.7500-0.7480
Finland markka	5.9485-5.9485
French franc	201.15-201.15
Hong Kong dollar	11.8670-11.8670
India rupee	0.0270-0.0270
Kenya shilling	0.0270-0.0270
Malaysia dollar	3.8007-3.8007
Mexican peso	14.50-14.50
New Zealand dollar	2.8595-2.8485
Saudi Arabian riyal	5.7085-5.7485
South African rand	3.2603-3.2731
S. Africa rand (cont)	3.2654-3.2525
S. A. E. rand (cont)	3.1545-3.1550
US dollar	0.5265-0.5265

Prices supplied by Barclays Bank PLC, London, and E.C.M.

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Argentina	
1.2025-2.0158	1.2025-2.0158
Australia dollar	2.3032-2.3072
Bahian dollar	0.5725-0.5775
Brazil cruzeiro	34.44-35.57
Cyprus pound	0.7500-0.7480
Finland markka	5.9485-5.9485
French franc	201.15-201.15
Hong Kong dollar	11.8670-11.8670
India rupee	0.0270-0.0270
Kenya shilling	0.0270-0.0270
Malaysia dollar	3.8007-3.8007
Mexican peso	14.50-14.50
New Zealand dollar	2.8595-2.8485
Saudi Arabian riyal	5.7085-5.7485
South African rand	3.2603-3.2731
S. Africa rand (cont)	3.2654-3.2525
S. A. E. rand (cont)	3.1545-3.1550
US dollar	0.5265-0.5265

Prices supplied by Barclays Bank PLC, London, and E.C.M.

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Allied Lyons (230)	
300	52 60 70 25 11
350	52 60 70 25 11
400	52 60 70 25 11

Continued on car
s to US

Portfolio
-Gold-

From your portfolio card check your
daily share price movements, on this page
only. Add them up to give you your
overall total and check this against the
daily dividend figure. If it matches, you
have won outright or a share of the total
daily prize money. If you are a
winner follow the claim procedure on the
back of your card. You must always have
your card available when claiming.

No.	Company	Group	Cash or Share
1	Chrysler Int	Automotive A-D	
2	Young 'A'	Insurance	
3	Ford Motor	Automotive A-D	
4	Brit Air	Building Roads	
5	Carroll Int	Automotive A-D	
6	Northampton Brick	Building Roads	
7	TSW	Chemicals	
8	Unimark	Oil	
9	Whitworth Elec	Electronics	
10	BICC	Electronics	
11	Glenfield Lawcare	Automotive A-D	
12	ASDA-MPI	Food	
13	Wilson (Connolly)	Building Roads	
14	Br Telecom	Electronics	
15	Brown Boveri Kent	Electronics	
16	Br Drilling	Building Roads	
17	Barclays	Electronics	
18	Independent	Newsprint	
19	Clydebank	Property	
20	Ashley (Luton)	Drugs/Stores	
21	Nat West	Bank/Discount	
22	Carroll Shipley	Bank/Discount	
23	Church	Drugs/Stores	
24	Breadford (S & W)	Food	
25	Evode	Chemicals/Plas	
26	Smith (WH) 'A'	Drugs/Stores	
27	Smith Ind	Automotive S-Z	
28	DDT Group	Electronics	
29	Br Aerospace	Automotive A-D	
30	Baggeridge Brick	Building Roads	
31	Angli	Food	
32	First Leisure	Leisure	
33	Yorkshire Chem	Chemicals/Plas	
34	Weston	Automotive S-Z	
35	DFCC	Automotive A-D	
36	Southend Stadium	Property	
37	Morgan Grenfell	Bank/Discount	
38	Laport	Chemicals/Plas	
39	Bentford (S & W)	Building Roads	
40	Powell Duffryn	Automotive L-R	
41	Drummond (I A)	Automotive	
42	Son & New	Automotive	
43	Land Securities	Property	
44	Times Newspapers Ltd	Daily Total	

Please take into account any
minus signs

Weekly Dividend
Please make a note of your daily totals
for the weekly dividend of 25,000 in
Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT

BRITISH FUNDS

High Low	Company	Price	Div

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

High Low	Company	Price	Div

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

High Low	Company	Price	Div

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

High Low	Company	Price	Div

UNDATED

High Low	Company	Price	Div

INDEX-LINKED

High Low	Company	Price	Div

BANKS DISCOUNT HP

High Low	Company	Price	Div

INDEX-LINKED

High Low	Company	Price	Div

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High Low	Company	Price	Div

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High Low	Company	Price	Div

INDEX-LINKED

High Low	Company	Price	Div

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Equities hit new heights

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began Monday. Dealings end February 6. Contango day February 9. Settlement day February 16.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices are recorded at 5pm. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close and may differ from changes calculated by comparing 5pm prices, published the previous day. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

No.	Company	Price	Div

BREWERIES

No.	Company	Price	Div

BUILDINGS AND ROADS

No.	Company	Price	Div

FINANCE AND LAND

No.	Company	Price	Div

FOODS

No.	Company	Price	Div

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

No.	Company	Price	Div

CINEMAS AND TV

No.	Company	Price	Div

DRAPEY AND STORES

No.	Company	Price	Div

INDUSTRIALS A-D

No.	Company	Price	Div

INDUSTRIALS E-K

No.	Company	Price	Div

INDUSTRIALS L-R

No.	Company	Price	Div

INDUSTRIALS S-Z

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INDUSTRIALS A-D

No.	Company	Price	Div

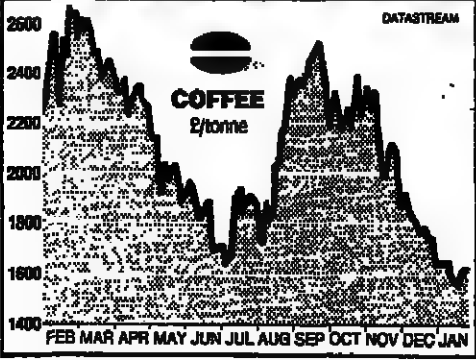
INDUSTRIALS E-K

No.	Company	Price	Div

The prices in this section refer to Monday's trading

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

FINANCIAL TRUSTS



Coffee action has been choppy recently. The start of the ICO meetings, with the producer members meeting today and expected export quotas is offsetting the longer term bearish picture. There is starting to be comment about chart-based bottoming action but participants are advised to follow the ICO pronouncements. Comment by GNI.

[illegible]

OVERSEAS PROPERTY



The good life by the harbour: The Belgravia Club, left. For those who prefer the high life: Jardines del Puerto, right

The safest route into Spain

The procedures for buying Spanish property have become progressively more straightforward for the British leisure home purchaser, both legally and financially, now that Spain is a full member of the EEC.

It must be stressed, however, that no purchase should be completed without consultation with a lawyer. Many agents, keen to complete a quick sale, assure the potential buyer that using a solicitor is unnecessary, but agents cannot claim to offer independent legal advice — and their client, of course, is the vendor.

A solicitor will need to check whether there is an outstanding mortgage on the purchase. If there is and the loan is called in, maybe because the developer has a cash-flow problem, or even becomes bankrupt, the lender has first call on the property. A private contract in this instance can count for nothing.

It is also essential to check with the local land registry that the developer has the proper planning permissions. The Law Society has a list of lawyers specializing in the purchase of overseas property.

When dealing with off-plan sales, a solicitor should also establish whether the developer has obtained a guarantee of completion from a bank or an insurance company. Although this is mandatory in Spain, not everyone does it — especially on cheaper schemes.

As a purchaser cannot obtain his certificate, or official title deed, until the building is complete, any stage payments could be lost if a developer without a guarantee cannot finish the project.

Do use a reputable agent who recognizes the need to offer purchasers a full sales and after-sales service, which includes advice on importing foreign currency correctly. Spain has strict exchange control regulations, so the correct non-resident bank account must be opened for the transfer of money both for the purchase and then to cover running costs.

Hotel Los Monteros, just east of Marbella, has long had luxury, privately owned villas within its grounds. Now Los Monteros is building a smart, Andalus-style apartment complex of 90

units called The Birdie Club, grouped around a swimming pool and overlooking the hotel's 18-hole golf course.

The marble-floored homes are spacious, with air-conditioning, central heating and open fireplaces. They have double-aspect views both over the golf course to the Sierras and also over Marbella and the Mediterranean towards Gibraltar. Outside living predominates. Ground-floor duplexes have balconies and private patios, while the upper floors have wide marble terraces and large, double-glazed picture windows.

Owners are entitled to use all the hotel facilities, including heated indoor pools, membership of the tennis, beach and riding clubs and the year-round Monteros Golf Club. This latter is available at a nominal annual charge of £250.

The Birdie Club, where the facilities will include swimming, restaurant, bar, supermarket, gym and tennis, is due for completion around Easter. Prices for the

leisure centre complete with squash, paddle tennis and a gym. The three-storey houses have phased completion, with the first 22 houses due for occupation during the spring and summer. Of these, 12 are still for sale at prices ranging from £86,000 to £115,000.

Details: Jennie Pinder, EPA, 27a New Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP1 2PH (0722 330847).

Jetsetters preferring Marbella's high life may well choose to live in Jardines del Puerto, a large apartment complex, being marketed in the UK by ORP's Candida Nicholson. The first phase of 120 of an eventual 580 is now complete, behind and adjacent to Puerto Banus.

The traditional-style white-washed buildings, complete with old terracotta tiles, stand around private gardens and contain a mix of two-bedroom and three-bedroom flats, of which about 30 are still for sale and ready for immediate occupation at prices ranging from £90,000 to £170,000.

The facilities are all included in the annual maintenance charge, which averages around £720 for a two-bedroom unit. There are three swimming pools, paddle tennis, two squash courts, a gym and saunas, and all the homes have an underground parking space included in the purchase price.

Overseas Property exhibitions are proving popular with developers, agents and potential purchasers alike. The Waldorf Hotel is the venue for the Homes Overseas exhibition running from February 6 to 8. The exhibition has 66 stands offering property throughout Europe and the Canary Islands.

ORP is running a series of monthly exhibitions at the Grosvenor House Hotel. The next one is on February 5 and 6 and will feature The Birdie Club, Jardines del Puerto and Puerto Soledad. Here, the first phase of the two-bedroom and three-bedroom apartments at Puerto's new marina, priced from £75,000 to £90,000, is due for completion this summer.

Marketing has just begun on the second phase, where prices range from £24,000 for a studio to £125,000 for a three-bedroom penthouse with scheduled completion due in March 1988.

By Diana Wildman

50 apartments still for sale range from £75,000 for a two-bedroom, two-bathroom unit to £185,000 for a vast three-bedroom duplex.

Details: Candida Nicholson, Overseas Residential Properties, Beechwood Farm, Buckland Common, Hertfordshire HP23 6PB (024029 8152).

At the western end of the Costa del Sol adjacent to Estepona Harbour, Euro Property Advisors is marketing The Belgravia Club — 44 three-bedroom and four-bedroom town houses being built around the focal point of the scheme, the owners' club house. The building, once a private villa, now has four large bedroom suites, for use by owners' guests, a restaurant, a library and office facilities, including a telebar.

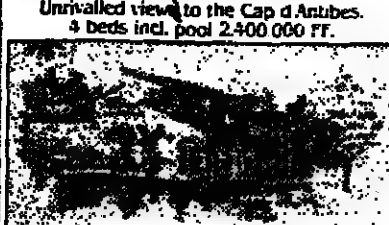
The Belgravia Club has its own Tollycraft motor cruiser moored in Estepona Harbour and a small country cottage up in Gaucin, a village about an hour's drive into the foothills. Both these have been purchased by the developers, Balpuerto SA, under the auspices of Peter Carvell and Bill Kessels.

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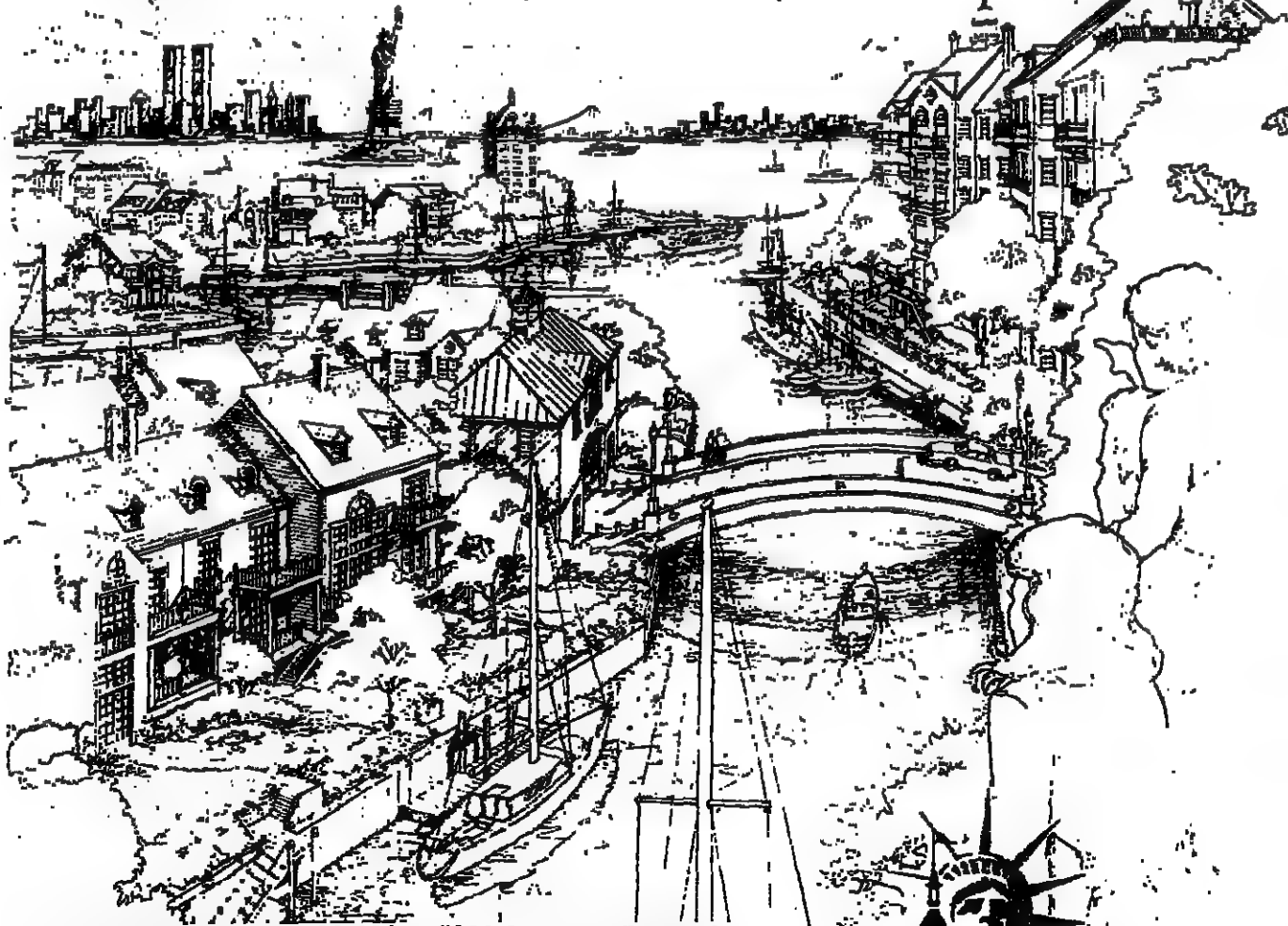
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The grazin', shootin' and fishin' house

Plough House is one of several older houses in Hungerford, Berkshire, with Common Rights. Having once been two properties, it has the double rights to graze two horses and four cows. It also has single-rod fishing rights and rights of shooting over land forming part of Port Down, Freeman's Marsh, and the rivers Kennet and Dun.

Plough House, a Victorian family house that was originally a public house, needs refurbishment. It has three reception rooms and four bedrooms, with extensive outbuildings in the grounds. It will be auctioned by Dreweatts at Donnington Priory on February 26, more previously sold. Expected price: more than £100,000.

Park prestige

A site off Albany Street, Regent's Park, with planning consent for three new houses, is for sale by the Crown Commissioners, who are seeking offers of more than £300,000. Planning consent allows for three two-bedroom houses, each with an integral garage. The designs by architects Westwood Plet Poole and Smart create two new houses of 1,500 sq ft and one of 1,700 sq ft. Alan Collett, of Allsop and Co, the sole agents, says: "This site is one of the few prestige locations available close to the park with private parking."

The Cottage, Studio Place, Kimmerton, Belgrave, is, according to the agents Douglas, Lyons and Lyons, probably the smallest house within the City of Westminster. It is a quiet pedestrian walkway leading to Grosvenor House, which was a hospital for soldiers during the Crimean War. The house has a sitting room 13ft by 21ft, a slightly smaller bedroom, a kitchen and a bathroom. The asking price is £145,000 for a 59-year lease.

Two by the Downs

Tillington Hill House and Tillington Hill Court are part of a late Georgian house on the edge of the village of Tillington, West Sussex, and they are both for sale at around £170,000 through King & Chasemore's Petworth office. Both have four bedrooms and two bathrooms, and while the latter has more rooms the former has the more generous proportions, being a substantial part of the original house. The divided house has been completely modernized and both parts have fine views to the Downs and Petworth Park.

Challenger Court, Beckenham, Kent, mentioned last week, is available through Alfred McAlpine Retirement Homes, Sevenoaks (0732 458655).



Thorpe Arnold Hall near Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, is a fine Georgian house standing in four acres in the village of Thorpe Arnold, surrounded by Belvoir Hunt country and bordering on the Quorn and Cottingham Forests. The original features include an Adam carved fireplace in the drawing room. The house has three reception rooms, four bedrooms and three bathrooms and the outbuildings include a garage and stabling. One outbuilding offers a self-contained two-bedroom flat. There is also an indoor heated swimming pool with changing rooms. Humberts' Stamford office is seeking offers of more than £195,000.

The Georgian investment

When John and Julie Brown bought Micklefield Green House, near the pretty Hertfordshire village of Sarat, three years ago, it was in a sorry state. The previous owners had been in the house for about 30 years, during which time many of the rooms in the formerly huge property, including the hall, had been knocked down. A lot of hard work was needed.

The Browns embarked on the work — the fact that Mrs Brown is an interior decorator by profession helped — and carried out an extensive programme of restoration and modernization to make the house comfortable. They stripped much of the house back to its basic shape, finding evidence of early 18th-century timber, though this imposing Georgian building, dating mainly from about 1740, is constructed of brick with sash windows under a slate roof.

The roof was removed and replaced with a mixture of existing and new slate tiles. The panelling in the reception rooms was taken off and restored. The drawing room marble fireplace, thought to be original to the house, was found in pieces outside and put together again, and a new foot carved to complete its restoration.

Other work included rewiring, plumbing and the installation of a twin

heating system, which enables the house to be heated by zone and boosts the system in the coldest weather.

The house has an entrance hall, a sitting room heated by a wood-burning stove, a dining room, a study, four main bedrooms and two bathrooms. The second floor contains five further bedrooms and two more bathrooms. The outbuilding includes a garage, which was once the billiard room, complete with fireplace, and there is a heated swimming pool on the terrace.

The floodlit grounds of more than six acres include lawns, a large walled kitchen garden and woodland, and Knight Frank & Rutley is asking for offers of more than £750,000 for a property which, incidentally, has helicopter landing rights. Compare the price with the £195,000 for the Georgian house in four acres of Leicestershire above.

It is not in deepest rural Hertfordshire but it has other advantages. It is about two miles from the M25, giving access to the M40 or M4 into London, and is only 20 minutes from Heathrow. A visitor gets the impression that the owners are reluctant to be leaving the place — not a bad indication of its attraction.

Christopher Warman
Property Correspondent



A Hertfordshire haven at £750,000: Micklefield Green House in Sarat

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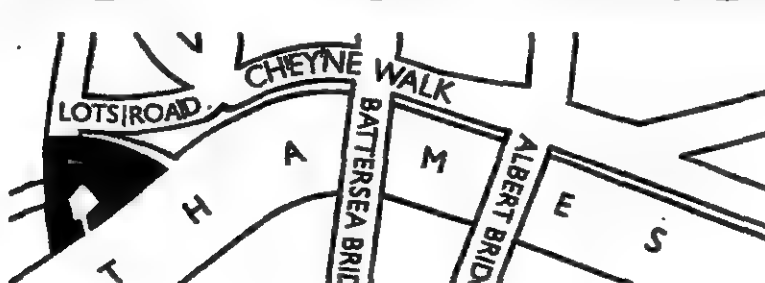
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with a keen commercial awareness. For the right person, who can demonstrate the all round dependability we seek, this new position carries with it an attractive salary and benefits package. Please write in strictest confidence, giving full details of your qualifications and experience to, Confidential Reply Service, Austin Knight Advertising Limited, 17 St. Helens Place, London EC3A 6AS quoting ref: 9581.

Applications are forwarded to the client concerned, so companies in which you are not interested should be listed in a covering letter addressed to the Confidential Reply Supervisor.

Austin Knight Advertising

BILINGUAL PERSONAL SECRETARY £12,500

Company Chairman of large International Group with office in Mayfair requires an experienced Personal Secretary.

Applicants must be English/German bilingual. A knowledge of French would be additionally advantageous.

First class secretarial skills are required, plus the ability to mix with a wide range of Domestic/Overseas visitors.

In addition to the salary, annual bonus and BUPA Membership, four weeks holiday are offered.

Apply with full C.V. to: Box H86

STOCKBROKING

£12,500 + M/G ++

A young and extremely successful Director of this fast growing and prestigious firm of stockbrokers requires a committed, self motivated secretary.

Both your secretarial and your organisational communications skills will enable you to take on some of this heavy work load liaising with internal staff at all levels.

A financial background and preferably knowledge of stockbroking would help you to understand his role and therefore get more involved in this challenging and demanding job.

Age 28-35 Skills 100/60

CITY OFFICE

01-726 8491

ANGELA MORTIMER

Plumm

APPOINTMENTS LTD

SECRETARY/PA

c.£14,000 + Mortgage

This major international bank seeks an experienced secretary to assist newly appointed Board Director. Ideally aged late 20's/early 30's you will have both fluent German and good conversational French and be prepared to offer commitment to this demanding PA role.

01-623 1781

ADMINISTRATIVE MEDICAL SECRETARY IVF UNIT c£10,000 PA

Due to promotion a vacancy now exists at this modern private hospital for the above position.

This is a challenging post and applications are invited from medical secretaries with audio and shorthand along with proven organisational skills. Previous hospital experience is preferable but not essential. As this position involves considerable patient contact a pleasant, friendly and helpful personality is required.

The Hospital offers an excellent benefit package and excellent working conditions.

For an application form please write to the Personnel Department or telephone:

01 586 5959 ext. 2710/3706.

(No Agencies)

SECRETARY TO DIRECTOR

SAL: £12,000 + benefits

A leading UK Merchant Bank seeks a highly qualified secretary to work for one of its senior Board Directors. The successful candidate aged 25-35 will provide full secretarial support, possess skills of 100/60, be educated to 'A' Level standard of education, and have previous experience within a financial environment.

RECEPTIONIST/ TYPIST

SAL: NEG.

A highly regarded Executive Search Consultancy requires a receptionist/typist. Applicants must enjoy working in the City, be well presented, possess good secretarial and organisational skills, and above all enjoy dealing with senior level executives. Age 30 plus.

Please contact Catherine Vinn on 01-621 1942

or write to her at 18 Road Lane, London EC3M 8AP

BRUNEL BANKING

FRENCH FINANCE

£14,000 max

The French MD of an international investment company in Mayfair is looking for an 'A' level (or graduate) PA with French shorthand.

Although he is not looking for a financial genius, you must feel at home with figures and also enjoy some personal work.

If you are looking for a confidential PA role, and would enjoy working in an Anglo-French environment, please call Angela Mortimer.

Skills 100/60 (F/S/H) Age: 25-40

WEST END OFFICE.

01-629-9586

ANGELA MORTIMER

EXECUTIVE FRENCH SECRETARIES!

1. PA Secretary/ administrator (graduate level) with French & German. For multinational Co. £10,500 + best perks.

2. Bilingual PA for high profile post. W1. Best. £11,500 + best perks.

3. French PA (German adv) for Int Co in Munich, organic conference. Some travel abroad £12,000 + OHL.

MEDROW EMP AGENCY

(The Language Specialist)

01 636 1487.

PERSONAL ASSISTANTS FOR HIGH-TECH ENVIRONMENT

Put your WP/Executive secretarial skills to good use in these challenging and responsible positions in South Bucks (on the Metropolitan Line).

Superb opportunities exist with a major British company for complete involvement and career development, in senior secretarial posts. Both carry a lot of responsibility and are rewarded accordingly.

Salaries to £11,500 plus benefits.

For further details, contact Kathy Lowe or Becky Smith on 0494 782915

Quillthorn PERSONNEL

CHAIRMAN'S SECRETARY (SHORTHAND)

For small friendly investment management company close to Liverpool Street. To assist with all business and personal correspondence. Must have fast, accurate typing, shorthand 100 wpm, word processing experience.

£10,000+ per annum, plus other benefits.

Send CV to:

Miss P. Slicker,

Anthony Wicks & Company,

19 Wilegate Street,

London, E1 7EP

NABARRO NATHANSON SENIOR SECRETARY TO PARTNER (Company Law)

A senior Partner in the Company Law Department of this expanding firm of West End solicitors is looking for an experienced audio secretary.

The successful candidate will have a solid legal background at senior level, preferably in Company Law. The main requirements are fast accurate typing, a good command of English, an organised and flexible approach to work, and the ability to work under pressure.

Age 30+

The firm offers a competitive salary; twice yearly reviews; season ticket loan; four weeks' holiday; contributory pension scheme.

Please send full CV to Miss P. Brown, Nabarro Nathanson,

76 Jermyn Street, London SW1Y 6NR.

ANGELA MORTIMER

PERSONAL ASSISTANT circa £11,000

Required by a Director of Korn/Ferry, the world's largest firm of executive headhunters. Candidates must be graduates and capable of dealing confidentially with senior level executives, have excellent organisation skills and be used to working on own initiative. Secretarial skills (100/60) preferably including WP. Benefits include Bupe, LV's, contributory pension and season ticket loan. CV's to:

Jane Price,

Korn/Ferry International Ltd,

31 St James's Square,

London SW1Y 4JL.

ANGELA MORTIMER

DRAKE OFFICE OVERLOAD ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A CHALLENGE?

As a Temporary Controller within our highly professional organisation you will enjoy a stimulating environment where individual contributions are the key to success. There are 4 you are highly motivated, a self-starter, able to take on a challenging work schedule and are seeking a new challenge to your career we can offer you a rewarding role within our company.

Your ability to communicate effectively at all levels as well as a sound knowledge of office systems, secretarial/PA functions and a good typing speed, will provide you with a unique opportunity to develop and progress in our dynamic business.

We are seeking interesting contact John Huxford or Frances Casey on 01-525 5244.

THE DRAKE INTERNATIONAL GROUP

PA/Secretary to Managing Director

Based near £20 million advertising agency needs an enthusiastic, hard-working PA/Secretary to handle all correspondence. Ability to work on own initiative essential. Excellent typing/shorthand skills required. Experience of word processing would be an advantage. Salary £10,000. Please reply with CV to:

Markus Ward,

ASL Ltd,

30 Gray's Inn Road,

London WC1X 8HP.

ANGELA MORTIMER

DIRECTORS PA FASHION COMPANY NW4 £11,000

Large clothing business with ability to seek to progress, along with design, layout, layout can be fast and confident. Age 25 to 35 and skills 100/60. No shorthand. Knowledge of Italian and/or other languages.

Telephone:

01-202 6173

Contact Miss A. Kala

ANGELA MORTIMER

Director's Secretary Word Perfect to £15,000

A small but successful Management Consultancy bases its success on a professional approach and high quality service to clients ranging from small plc's to multinational corporations.

The MD is seeking an accomplished PA who can provide a first class back up to match his exacting standards. All the skills of a senior PA (100/60) will be complemented by an unflinching, naturally organised temperament and the poise to handle confidential client contact at the highest level. Age indicator: 28-40.

Please telephone 01-437 1564

MacBlain

NASH

& Associates Ltd

01-437 1564

Recruitment Consultants, 130 Regent Street,

London W1R 5FE

ANGELA MORTIMER

FRENCH SPEAKING SECRETARY

For Assistant General Manager

We are an International Consortium Bank looking for a top-class shorthand/WP secretary with spoken French to work for one of our Assistant General Managers in the loans and syndications area.

Responsibilities will include a full range of secretarial duties with special emphasis given to looking after VIP guests and arranging travel itineraries.

The ideal candidate will be aged in the 20's, well-organised smartly presented have spoken French and a flexible approach to working hours.

In addition to the competitive salary the excellent benefits package includes cheap rate mortgage facilities, a non-contributory pension scheme and a performance related profit-sharing bonus which could substantially increase remuneration.

Please phone Pat Lumby on 606 7777 or write, detailing age, experience, qualifications and current remuneration to her at UBAF Bank Ltd, 30 Gresham St, London EC2V 7LP

UBAF

BANK LIMITED

OVERSEAS PROPERTY LEISURE GROUP TO £10,500

Exceptional troubleshooter with bags of confidence for fast expanding Knightsbridge company.

You'll work hard and fast but you'll certainly grow quickly if you prove your mettle.

Excellent working environment and travel perks in return for equally high-calibre secretarial skills.

RECRUITMENT

01-584 6242

Susan Beck

FUN IN MARKETING AGE 23 - £10,250

Do you want to work in Chelsea for a very lively fun co specialising in promoting the hedonistic side of life? Would you like to work at Senior level, have lots of involvement & earn in excess of £10,000? If you are lively with a good sense of humour & willing to use your good typing & 80 minimum shorthand to gain a super opportunity this is for you. WP experience preferred.

RECRUITMENT

01-584 6242

Susan Beck

CONFIDENT, ENERGETIC ADAPTABLE PA. SECRETARY c£10,000-£11,000

Hyphen Hayden needs a person with first class organisational and secretarial skills. The job is to support and share in the work of two senior members of staff in a busy, expanding Advertising and P.R. Agency. It's a crucial post, in maintaining both the internal efficiency and the external relations of the business. Lots to do and good people to work with. Salary according to experience.

Please write with c.v. to Nigel Perrier, Managing Director, Hyphen Hayden, Fitzhugh House, 69-71 Bellenden Road, London SE15 4QU within 7 days.

RECRUITMENT

01-584 6242

Susan Beck

KINLEIGH

We are shortly to open our third computer-linked Estate Agency in a prime S.W. London position and require a highly skilled administrator as Secretary/PA to the Branch Partner. Excellent salary, conditions and prospects for the right applicant.

Please contact Lee Watts

on 01-785 2122

ANGELA MORTIMER

WOULD YOU LIKE TO WORK FOR A YOUNG, FAST MOVING SPORTS MANAGEMENT COMPANY?

If so IMG, Mark McCormack Organisation located in Riverside offices at Kew Bridge has a vacancy for a Senior Secretary to work for a Senior Vice President. You need to possess excellent secretarial skills, be well presented and have a good telephone manner. Experience at senior level is essential. Salary negotiable.

Please call or send C.V. with salary requirements to:

Trisha Smith

The Pier House

Strand on the Green

Chiswick W4 3NN

Tel: 01-994 1444

ANGELA MORTIMER

LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

MEDIA-FINANCE-ADVERTISING-SALES-PERSONNEL-MEDIA-FINANCE

Public Relations

City £12,500

Many exciting environments exist in the City. One of the creative businesses based there is Public Relations.

Our clients are listed as being at the top of their field; handling accounts for many of the City's most prestigious companies.

We have been asked to help find a top-notch secretary to work in their new business section for a senior consultant. There will be lots of client contact, plenty to organise and press releases to co-ordinate.

If you have good secretarial skills of 100/60 and are aged between 22-30 and like the idea of working in PR then ring us on 01-439 6021 to arrange an interview.

HAZELL-STATION

RECRUITMENT SPECIALISTS

8 Golden Square, London W1.

Tel: 01-439 6021.

MEDIA-FINANCE-ADVERTISING-SALES-PERSONNEL-MEDIA-FINANCE

THE RITZ in the City

PROFESSIONAL
TEMPORARIES...

...deserve a professional service and at Ritz in the City you will find just that. With a variety of bookings from companies with interests in the Arts as well as Commercial your secretarial skills and flexible attitude will be rewarded with top rates and prompt pay.

For further details call Judi Hutton on: 283-1555 or 625-1133.

RITZ RECRUITMENT, 133 MIDDESEX STREET, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON E1 7JF. TELEPHONE 01-625 1215

ANGELA MORTIMER

SECRETARY AD AGENCY

Director of a fast growing SW London Advertising Agency requires secretary with initiative, flair and an ability to absorb responsibility.

Shorthand and typing skills will reflect the importance of this position and experience within the industry is essential.

Salary and benefits package negotiable.

Applications in writing to Box 188, The Times, Virginia Street, London E1 9DB

ANGELA MORTIMER

PR CONSULTANCY

PR Consultant needs PA/Secretary with good secretarial ability. Plenty of scope for someone with administrative aptitude. Good salary. Based near Baker Street tube station.

Telephone:

01-402 9464

Cathy Carrodus.

ANGELA MORTIMER

P.A./Sec in WC2

£10,000 + Many Benefits

International firm needs an extrovert P.A. (with an interest in the Arts?) to work for three senior managers. Lots of face-to-face client contact. Requirements: 3 years' experience and skills of 100/60, some audio and WP. Age guide: 24-28. All overtime is paid.

GRADUATE
APPOINTMENTS

7 PRINCES STREET, W1. 01-629 7282

ANGELA MORTIMER

Public Relations

£9,000 - £11,000

We are currently handling a large number of vacancies in public relations for experienced secretaries - vacancies both in the West End and the City in consumer/corporate/trade/financial public relations. Requirements: Excellent typing (no shorthand) and WP experience. Age guide: 21-30.

GRADUATE
APPOINTMENTS

7 PRINCES STREET, W1. 01-629 7282

ANGELA MORTIMER

SECRETARY

For technology account group in busy W1 marketing consultancy. Good typing and flexibility are essential. Salary negotiable.

Please reply with C.V. to:

Theresa Gooding,

The CHA Group Ltd,

18 Kingsly Court,

London W1R 5LE

ANGELA MORTIMER

JUNIOR SECRETARY

Mayfair Head Office of leading Estate Agent requires hard working junior secretary with accurate typing. Duties include back-up typing/telephones for Senior Partner's secretary and telex. Hours: 9 to 5.30. Salary: £8,000. Please send C.V. and covering letter to:

BOX H55,

c/o THE TIMES

P.O. Box 484

1 Virginia Street

Wapping E1 9DD

ANGELA MORTIMER

SECRETARY - OXFORD CIRCUS

£9,000 pa, 5 weeks holiday

Excellent person, 28+, with initiative and proven secretarial skills to join small friendly team, serving a National Organisation. WP, SH and audio are required for this varied job. Non smoker preferred.

Free life and permanent health insurance.

Tel: Coryn on 698-6291 to arrange interview.

LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

SECRETARIES

New Heights for High Achievers

At Hillier Parker we've built our success on a reputation for excellence, and we're building a future on a fresh, innovative approach. As a leading international real estate practice, we combine progressive ideas with traditional values. Our current growth and reorganisation means we're looking to recruit the following:-

PA/Secretary

We have two senior Partners within our Investment Department who require your help. It's a responsible and fast moving job. How you tackle it will depend on you. You'll look after every aspect of running their business life, as well as acting as ambassador when overseas - there's a fair amount of travel involved, particularly to Japan.

You're likely to be in your late twenties/early thirties, ideally with experience in the property or finance world - though it's not essential. Probably a senior PA already, you'll certainly have organisational skills, motivation, high standards, and an excellent eye for detail: your shorthand/ audio typing will be second to none. Immense tact and an excellent telephone manner will combine with a cheerful and enthusiastic approach to your work.

Senior Secretaries

We're looking for three senior secretaries to work for Partners, Associates and Surveyors within a team structure.

You are likely to be in your mid to late twenties, with a mature, confident and professional approach. At home in a successful, high powered environment, you'll relish being part of that team. Good communication skills are essential, as well as excellent typing and secretarial ability; we'll expect your organisational abilities to be of a correspondingly high calibre.

We're based in the heart of the West End; salaries are negotiable, and the benefits package will match your own strengths. If either apply to you, write now with full career and salary details to: Dorrie Forsythe, Personnel Officer, Hillier Parker, 77 Grosvenor Street, London W1A 2BT. Tel: 01-629 7666.



Hillier Parker
With Offices and associates throughout the world

DIRECTORATE OF TECHNICAL SERVICES

SECRETARIES

LOOKING FOR A CHALLENGE?

Our Director of Technical Services is looking for a first class:

Personal Assistant

With something special to offer:

- Organisational ability
- Good communication skills
- Excellent shorthand and typing
- Lots of energy, drive and determination

THE REWARDS

- Salary £10,251 - £12,009 per annum inclusive
- 21 days holiday
- An extra day's leave at most Bank Holidays
- Interest free loans for season tickets

and most important of all, a high level of job satisfaction.

THE JOB

This is the ideal opportunity for a Personal Assistant who wants to be in at the beginning. The Directorate of Technical Services has recently been reorganised, and your boss is a new appointment to the job. You will therefore have the chance to use your own initiative in reviewing and implementing excellent working systems.

Interested? Why not speak to your future boss? Contact Max Carter directly on 01 446 8511.

Closing date 12th February, 1987 Ref. DTS/S

Application forms available from the Assistant Controller (Support Services), Barnet House, 1255 High Road, Whetstone, London N20 0EJ. Telephone 01 446 8511, Ext. 4460 (ansaphone during office hours) or ext. 4454.



Secretary

NM Rothschild & Sons is a leading merchant bank based in the City and an interesting opportunity has arisen for an experienced secretary to work in their Banking Division. The successful applicant will have good shorthand/typing skills (100/50 wpm), word processing experience (ideally Digital DECmate), a good standard of education and the ability to work under pressure.

An attractive salary and banking benefits package is offered including profit-sharing and mortgage subsidy.

If you are interested, please write with full cv to:

Personnel Officer
N.M. Rothschild & Sons Limited
PO Box 185, New Court
St. Swithin's Lane
London EC4P 4DU.



N.M. Rothschild & Sons Limited

HIGH FLYING OPPORTUNITIES IN 1987

ADMIN SECRETARY

£10,500

Benefits include: 21 days holiday, LVA, car parking, interest free loans on travel. An experienced operator is required to work with this busy team of Solicitors. Plenty of scope for career advancement. Do you enjoy using your own initiative and communication skills?

JUNIOR SECRETARY

£8,000

Benefits include: 21 days holiday, LVA, car parking, interest free loans on travel. A friendly team needs somebody with good secretarial skills and a professional approach towards a progressive career. If this sounds like you, then call on immediately!

SECRETARY

£9,000

Benefits include: 21 days holiday, BUPA discount scheme, LVA, interest free travel. This friendly team needs somebody with good secretarial skills and a professional approach towards a progressive career. If this sounds like you, then call on immediately!

PA SECRETARY

£9,500

Benefits include: 21 days holiday, LVA, car parking, interest free loans on travel. An experienced operator is required to work with this busy team of Solicitors. Plenty of scope for career advancement. Do you enjoy using your own initiative and communication skills?

'UPMARKET' YOUNG SECRETARY

£7,500

Benefits include: 4 weeks holiday, LVA, Christmas Bonus, Summer Bonus, Private Pension Plan. Deliberate expansion policy required to assist the company in its progress. Working at Director level, you will be required to manage travel and expenses, handle his correspondence and represent the company to day-to-day activities. Interested? Then call...

CONTACT: Sarah Huckle or

Nikita Vernon-Brown
on 01-438 8022
at 1 Kingsway, London WC2
(Opposite Bank House)

CONTACT: Lesley Seigley or

Kathleen Foye
on 01-438 8022
at 11 Lodge Street, London EC4

CONTACT: Valerie Glaston or

Sue Johnson on
01-438 8022
at 148 Oxford Street, London W1
(Opposite Sainsbury's)



KINGSWAY RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS



TEMPORARY STAFF SPECIALISTS

£11,500 2 x LEGAL

You need some legal experience for both our company law positions. One is with shorthand for the Senior Partner of a reasonable sized Holborn practice; the other with a major bank requires audio + WP skills. Superb offices, mortgage etc.

£10-£13,000 TRAVEL?

You are more a PA than a secretary to the MD of a major company in Mitcham, Surrey and you are capable of representing the MD abroad as necessary. German + French and SH + WP skills.

SECRETARIES PLUS

£11,000+ INVESTMENT

Up-market PA. Undertake various research projects + attend conferences and meetings with your boss, the Director of a fast expanding and successful Investment Securities House. SH + WP skills; 30+.

£15-£20,000 RECRUITING ENTHUSIAST?

You have at least 2 years Personnel Management experience with the emphasis on recruitment coupled with a positive, if not impressive, personality. As a Recruitment Consultant placing permanent secretaries, your hard work and expertise will gain you job satisfaction and earnings of £15-£20,000+. Call Lyn Cecil on 377-8600.

ADMINISTRATOR/ SECRETARY

Salary circa £9,500 pa

We are:

- A small international company and expanding
- Specialists in architectural lighting and quality furniture
- Based in Central London with trade showrooms

You:

- Are in your twenties
- Have at least 5 years experience
- Have got initiative and can organise a wide variety of tasks
- Have an aptitude for figures
- Are ambitious
- Are well spoken, presentable with a strong personality
- Enjoy being part of a small team

Some knowledge of Italian an advantage

If you are confident that you fulfill the above criteria, we would like to hear from you urgently.

Please send full C.V., photograph and current salary level to:
Reply to BOX H90, c/o The Times Newspaper
P.O. Box 484, Virginia Street, Wapping E1 9DD.

MULTILINGUAL SERVICES

GERMANY ENGLAND

Mr. GOETTINGEN:
Secretary with brilliant English + German, plus French, to work in a delightful, small town. Lots of variety including translating, taking dictation in German (adapt your shorthand if necessary), working on Trade Fair participations etc.

Mr. MUNICH:
Secretary with the same qualifications for MD of a young, busy team. No shorthand, but audio. Own correspondence in English and German and some translating. Someone flexible (mid 20's) who enjoys organising and administration.

LONDON (City):

Bilingual secretary (early 20's), with English and French shorthand (even if a bit rusty), word processing and lots of experience in a busy office environment. To work for French executive in new department of Finance House. £9,000 + bonuses and package.

LONDON (SW1):

Experienced secretary with excellent spoken and written French, able to translate both ways, to assist head of unique computer project. Shorthand not vital, but word processing is. Will organise and sometimes attend meetings. £10,500 + extras.

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0HR

'Never a dull moment' Sales Secretary

Attractive 5 figure reward package for the right person. (Central London)

We are one of the UK's top Microcomputer Dealers and a leading supplier of IBM and other leading manufacturers' equipment.

We seek an experienced secretary with real WP ability and telephone skills. The ability to cope with a smile, sometimes under pressure, in a fast-moving sales environment, is essential.

Bonsai is a rapidly growing company and this position offers every opportunity for career development.

If what you have read interests you, and you match our requirements, please write with full career details to our Personnel Manager, Lauren Kraffman at Bonsai Ltd, 112-116 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1HJ. NO AGENCIES



MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Accord, the well-known Greeting Card and Gift Wrap Publisher are looking for two lively, enthusiastic people to join our Home Team.

We have planned for further rapid growth in 1987. To help build our administration and sales support we are looking for young (21-28) people who feel they have major potential for success which has not yet been recognised.

Some experience in systems, admin and/or sales support will be necessary. We train people thoroughly in all aspects of this exciting company.

Salary around £10,000 + profit share.

If you feel you have talent and energy and want to work really hard in a fun team atmosphere and need a new opportunity for 1987, start by ringing

Jamie Mills on 01 354 0101

ACCORD PUBLICATIONS,
BALDWIN TERRACE,
ISLINGTON,
LONDON. N1 7RU



SECRETARIES Park Lane

Trusthouse Forte are currently recruiting for two secretaries with good shorthand and typing, for the positions of Secretary to the Company Secretary and Secretary to the Chief Executive's Office.

Organisational ability is essential for the former position and both vacancies require a pleasant telephone manner and smart appearance.

Candidates will be in their early twenties and successful applicants will be rewarded with excellent salaries plus those benefits associated with a large international company.

For further information please contact Miss D Thompson on 01-437 7788.



Trusthouse Forte PLC

Sheer Vitality £9,500

Use your leadership qualities to the full when you join this super, young and highly successful Mayfair computer company. As well as excellent prospects, this expanding role offers involvement, variety and a busy, often hectic, pace. Good shorthand and typing is a must. In addition, you should have the ability to lead and guide a younger colleague. Age 22+. Please telephone 01-493 4466.

MERRYWEATHER ADVERTISING & SELECTION



Break Free! £10,500

The sky's the limit when you join this very progressive West End legal firm. The Partner, an excellent delegator, places trust, responsibility and unlimited involvement in your hands. Dealing directly with clients, every encouragement will be given if your sights are set on becoming a Legal Executive! Good typing requested. Legal experience not essential. Age 21+. Please telephone 01-493 4466.

MERRYWEATHER ADVERTISING & SELECTION



PR/AD Mania c£9,000

Would you like a job with real prospects...? In a Company with a young and zappy bunch of ascending stars in the PR/Advertising world?...? Do you want to be more than just a secretary...? Then, if you are 21-23 and have excellent typing and plenty of motivation, please telephone 01-493 5787 Gordon Yates Consultancy.

GORDON YATES

WARM HEARTED

We are looking for a willing and cheerful secretary to help look after our small, happy team of recruitment consultants. We are proud of our excellent reputation for providing a professional and personal service to both clients and candidates; your friendly telephone manner and welcoming smile will help keep us Number One in the business. You will provide secretarial and administrative backup and when the pressure is on keep us smiling! Good typing essential but rusty shorthand would suffice. Age range 35-50, salary c.£11,000. Please ring 588 3535.

Crone Corkill RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Fine Art Admin c£9,000aac

Unique opportunity for a well-educated PA Sec with superb admin skills to join this prestigious fine art establishment. As Admin Assistant to two international experts, you will be involved in major exhibitions and have overall responsibility for export and shipping procedures. Sound shorthand and typing skills are essential. Knowledge of French and Italian useful. Age 23+. Please telephone 01-493 5787.

GORDON YATES

ARE YOU COOL CALM AND CONFIDENT?

Is your typing speed at least 60wpm? Have you WP experience? (shorthand or audio? even better) Do you enjoy dealing with people? Have you at least 2 years secretarial experience and are now looking for more involvement? Look no further! We are a medium sized PR Consultancy based in prestigious West End offices and we are looking for a secretary to work with busy team involved in beauty, fashion and food accounts. We offer a starting salary of £8,500 (neg), 4 weeks holidays, LVA's, sounds just what you are looking for?

Call Marion on: 01 631 0595 for further details. (No agencies).

Continued on next page

LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

PROFESSIONAL P.A.

c.£15,000 + Banking Package

We are looking for a totally committed and professional P.A. to work at top level within a successful merchant bank in EC2. The head of Corporate Finance needs full support in all aspects of his business life: his P.A. must have superb organisational skills, the ability to keep one step ahead and to work in complete confidence. If you are aged 28-40, well educated ('A' levels/degree) and have impeccable secretarial skills backed by the tact and diplomacy gained through several years senior-level City experience, please call 588 3535.

Crone Corkill
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

STOCKBROKER IN THE MAKING?

to £12,000 d.a.e.

Join the small well established City firm and train as a broker. While studying for the Stock Exchange exams, you will be working for a chartered broker, helping the administration of the firm and eventually dealing with them direct, running the office and providing secretarial backup. If you are aged 25+, have City experience (50wpm typing, good 'O' levels (including maths) and would enjoy accelerating into the fast lane of City life please call 437 8022.

HOBSTONES
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

21-25 SWEET SMELL OF SUCCESS £11,000

If you make the grade as Secretary to the Marketing Manager of this prestigious Mayfair perfume and cosmetic house, you could progress to the role of Marketing Assistant! Launching new products involves liaising with the advertising agency, producing promotional literature and organising launch venues, so an agile mind is as necessary as the ability to work under pressure. Good secretarial skills essential.

01-499 9175
16 HANOVER SQ. W1
FINESSE
APPOINTMENTS LTD

Specialists for the 18-25 year olds

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RUGBY UNION

Devereux the centre of attention as Welsh Students eye selection

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

The decision of the Welsh selectors for the side to play France in Paris on February 7, due to be announced tomorrow, will be of additional interest to the Welsh Students, who play the French Students in Bordeaux the previous day. The students have picked John Devereux as centre but are prepared to lose him should Wales decide to amend the XV which should have played against Ireland, the game postponed from January 17 until April because of bad weather.

Although Devereux is the only capped player in the student XV (he will be replaced by Mike Hall, from University College, Cardiff, if necessary), he is joined by several senior trialists in a side which has a notable back division: Nigel Davies (Llanelli) is paired with Iwan Jones (Cardiff) at fullback, and Iwan Jones (Cardiff) is paired with Iwan Jones (Cardiff) at fullback, and Iwan Jones (Cardiff) is paired with Iwan Jones (Cardiff) at fullback.

This will be the first occasion that caps have been awarded to players representing the Welsh Students, a gesture which recognizes the enhanced standards of student rugby. It will be a particularly memorable occasion for Simon Griffin, the flanker, who has played club rugby in France and has appeared on the winning side twice for Oxford in the university match, the last time as captain.

Two members of the side come from University of Swansea, one of today's quarter-finalists in the UAU competition. Swansea face a difficult trip to Durham only four days after losing with honours to Newport in the third round of the Schweppes Welsh Cup. Moreover they have lost their captain and flanker, David Bryant, who has decided to terminate his studies, and Lee Evans, a centre who pulled a hamstring against Newport. Jeff Bird takes over the captaincy and his partner in the centre will be Gareth Powell.

Loughborough, the holders of the UAU title, play Reading.

The new date suggested by the Rugby Football Union for the inter-services championship match between the Royal Navy and the RAF has created a problem for the Navy. The game was due to be played at Twickenham on April 4, but when the Calcutta Cup match was rescheduled for that day, the services game was moved to March 14 (David Hands writes).

However, that is the date of the county championship semi-finals, in one of which Middlesex play Cornwall, and some half a dozen Navy players are likely to be selected by Cornwall. The county enjoy an excellent relationship with the service - indeed, Chris Alcock, the Navy captain this season, has also captained Cornwall, and both would be looking for a clash of interests to occur.

The Navy have first choice but they are planning their hopes on the Army and the RAF being prepared to move from their March 21 date to March 14, leaving the later date free for the Navy to play the RAF. All three services are in action today, the Army against the Civil Service at Chiswick, the Navy against Cambridge University (Portsmouth) and the RAF against Oxford University (Hilton).

Reverting to a schoolboy role, Gareth Clifton, the England prop forward, assumes a new role for Bath in Saturday's John Smith's Merit Table A match against Sale as a hooker. He takes over from Graham Dawes, who is standing down to avoid injury before he makes his England debut against Ireland on Saturday week.

Clifton therefore reverts to a role he last had regularly as a schoolboy, though he has played there in emergencies.

Coventry's promising young stand-off, Rob Rowan, makes his first-team debut in Saturday's home fixture against Lichfield. Coventry's scheduled opponents, Rosslyn Park, are playing Leicester in the John Player Cup.

These are dark days at Ormeau, the home of the North of Ireland Football Club, the premier rugby club in Ireland - and it is not because of the deep midwinter.

A glance at the League table pertaining to section one of the Digital Under Senior League tells it all: NIFC are bottom without a point from four matches played. Only two games remain, at home to the same leaders, Inverness, on Saturday and Collegians (who share bottom place but having played only two games) on March 28.

No one in Irish rugby wants to see North drop in section two of the Senior League but neither and statistics count for little in this modern era when rugby seems to be all about points and winning and never mind the game. Perhaps the heavy burden of the International Rugby Board are at present carrying with the advent of the World Cup and all its ramifications, may be in some measure due to changing attitudes regarding the game in these islands.

There was some wonderful rugby played at Ormeau in the days of Jackie Kyle, Noel Henderson and Willie Gilchrist, to name but a few who have won the North colours in the last four decades with rare distinction. And I am certain that older men like me, and there are a few around, will be glad to see the North colours on the ground - that can recall earlier exploits of similar merit by former members of this great club.

These thoughts are sprinkled liberally along the way in the history of all clubs and if the current decline in results achieved on the field by North determine that they play their first game next season, so be it. They will rise again, that is for sure.

But one cannot help feeling that somewhere along the line the boat has been misused, that the North has been used as a national, provincial or club level as well as at playing level; that success is of paramount importance, and enjoyment a secondary consideration. The dictum of the national, provincial or club level as well as at playing level; that success is of paramount importance, and enjoyment a secondary consideration.

The congenial atmosphere of the clubhouse at North will not change if what takes place on the pitch is not belonging to the top sphere of Ulster rugby for a season or two. But as most members of North were a great, the only difference between winning and losing when the game is rugby football is in the scoreline and, in the aftermath, that becomes rather irrelevant. May it be ever thus.

Steve Overt left for New York yesterday to begin a four-race tour of the North American indoor circuit, beginning with the Wannamaker Mile, at Madison Square Garden, on Friday evening (Pat Butcher writes). Overt has not raced indoors since 1975, and his plans for several training sessions at RAF Cosford, Britain's only proper indoor track, were spoiled by the bad weather in the south of England recently, which saw him snowed in at his new home near Eastbourne.

But he escaped last week and is pictured above at Cosford during one of his stints as a commentator at last Saturday's national indoor championships. Overt said afterwards: "I've got no idea how I'll go. Running indoors is a different technique and it's been difficult for me to try to train for it, especially compared to Ray Flynn (the Irishman who is also running on Friday). He trains on an indoor track near his home every day. That's what I'm up against." Other opponents for Overt are Eamonn Coghlan, six times a winner of the Wannamaker Mile, and Marcus O'Sullivan, another leading Irishman.

British athletics is basking in the reflected glory of Boris Becker's call to Frank Dick, the national coach, to conduct the young West German tennis player's conditioning programme.

But while his colleagues were endorsing general expressions of congratulation to Dick, Nigel Cooper, the British Board secretary, said: "We are all delighted, it's a marvellous compliment to the sport - there will be those who fear that this and other such approaches to Dick prestage his departure from the sport."

Athletics coaches in Britain, including Dick, are notoriously underpaid; indeed, Dick, who earns less than £20,000 a year, has been kept waiting for some weeks for a decision on a salary review following the overwhelming success at last September's European championships.

There is a terrible precedent for a national coach being lost through administrative ineptitude: Geoff Dyson, hailed around the world as Dick for his technical expertise, left Britain in the 1960s to become national athletics coach for Canada.

However, Dick was quick to refuse suggestions that he might be departing when he said: "My loyalties are absolute to British athletics. I wouldn't have taken on the responsibility of the Becker job if I couldn't do it alongside my post as director of coaching. It will be like leaving another world-class athlete in our stead."

Dick has been supervising the conditioning programme of Daley Thompson, the double Olympic decathlon champion, for the last four years, and he now has the double Wimbledon champion in his hands. But Jeff Thompson, the world tennis champion, also joined Dick's squad for conditioning two months ago, and is considering taking up the 400 metres hurdle.

The benevolent mood at the administration's offices in London was clear, as a Northern Ireland colleague slipped a note under Dick's nose which read: "Alex Higgins will be getting in touch." Dick was combining his daily athletics work with preparations to leave for Monte Carlo today to meet Ion Tiriac, Becker's manager, and the player himself, to discuss a training programme.

Dick said that the first he knew of the offer had been last Friday, "when a representative of Tiriac called me from Melbourne to sound me out."

ITV decision surprises administrators

Athletics officials, who had been primed for the bad news, were non-committal yesterday at the revelation in *The Times* that Independent Television were not going to transmit the European and World indoor championships, and the world cross-country championships, although the omission of that last fixture did cause surprise all round (Pat Butcher writes).

Privately, some officials were annoyed that they had a cynical lack of good faith on the part of the Independent Television hierarchy, content to sit on their exclusive domestic coverage.

The Locko Park horse trials in Derbyshire are to be re-started this year, following a £25,000 sponsorship contract with Phipps' Gatcombe Park event.

The trials, established in 1975 at the home of the organiser, Capt Patrick Drury-Lowe, built up a fine reputation during the next ten years as the venue for both the advanced and novice National Championships.

When Midland Bank ended their sponsorship in 1985 and the Open Championships were transferred to Capt Mark Phillips' Gatcombe Park event, Locko was left without a sponsor and withdrawn from the calendar.

Capt Drury-Lowe, in confidence mode yesterday, said the year off had done no harm. The necessary drainage and fencing programmes had been carried out on the estate and the grounds were now well-prepared for this year's event, which is scheduled to take place on August 7 and 8.

The trials, which will run both the novice and the intermediate championships, look set to attract many of Britain's most experienced riders.

Virginia Leng, the reigning World and European champion, and a triple winner of Locko, said yesterday that she hoped to qualify for this year's event with Ballyhack, the six-year-old horse she bought from Ireland.

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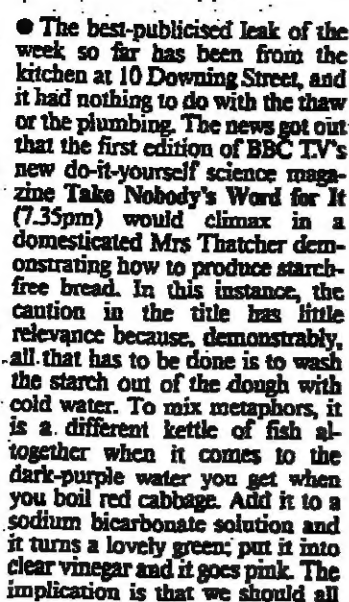
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A colourful lesson from No 10



CHOICE

exercise a greater degree of scepticism and that neither in politics nor in science should we take anybody's word for it when they say they are True Blue. This studio set for this new popular science series is ornamented with what look like blue serpents coiled around grey pillars, the funnels of ship ventilation shafts, and a massive Bunsen burner. We shall have to take producer Patrick Tilley's word for it that these embellishments have some scientific relevance.

● The basic weakness of Split Screen (BBC2, 10.00pm) is shrewdly defined and enunciated by its presenter, Laurie Taylor, and it is the theory that there are only two sides to every question. Taylor knows, and so do we, that

there could be at least three. Realistically of course, there is a limit to the number of ways the screen can be split in half an hour and, considering everything, tonight's two totally opposed films about whether sex education should be done in the home or in the school, focuses sharply on the principal issues: whether it is enough just to teach the bald facts about sex or whether moral responsibility should be the cornerstone.

● **Odyssey** (Channel 4, 9.00pm) is a four-decker. For me, the least interesting of the four films is the one about Saharan nomads putting down roots. The best is the one about an Icelandic volcano — though perhaps you should not take my word for it.



A scene from Yilmaz Guney's film drama *Hope* (Channel 4, 10.00pm)

BBC 2

ITV/LONDON

CHANNEL 4

VARIATIONS

(7) 4.15 Jackson, Joe
Award with part three of
Roald Dahl's story of BFG
the Champion of the World.
4.25 Benarman, (7) 4.25 You
Should Be So Lucky! Talent
competition between stage
schools

5.00 John Craven's Newsround
5.05 Treasure Houses. Mark
Curry, from Dickens's house in
London and his Portsmouth
birthplace, traces the story of
the life of the celebrated
novelist.

5.35 First-class. Inter-school video
game. This is the Holyrood
from Somerset mast. Daventry
Southbrook from Northants.

5.00 Six O'Clock News with
Nicholas Witchell and Philip
Harlow. Weather.

6.35 News at Ten.

7.00 Wogan. Tonight's guests
include Jeffrey Archer and
Michael Palin

7.35 The Muppet Show. The guest
is John Cleese.

8.00 Doctor. Dr Harry Wendell is
recruiting for his campaign
against Ewing Oil (Ceebs)

8.05 Points of View. Anne Robinson
discs the BBC's postbag.

8.00 A. A. P. Political Soundbites on
behalf of the SDP.

9.05 News with Julia Somerville
and Andrew Harvey. Regional
news and weather.

9.35 Challenge 97 for the
America's Cup. Ian
Woods reports from Perth
on the battles to defend and to
challenge for the America's Cup.
Sports.

10.25 Spotlight introduced by
Shirley Bassey. Being from
Perth where Chris Patten
defends his European light-
middleweight title against local
man Gianfranco Rosi;
and from Belfast where
Dennis Taylor in the first round
of the Benson and Hedges
Masters; Football: tonight's FA
Cup news; and 50-60;
the relationships from
Crans-Montana.

2.10 Weather.

9.00 **Caezar.**

9.15 **Dynasties on Two:** the difference The AS road has made to the people living in the Highlands **9.35 Celtic Gold**

For four- and five-year olds

10.15 **The 15 minutes sitting 10.38 How do scientists classify colour? 11.00 Vicki Ireland** with the tale of Nobby Neville

11.17 Life in a Scottish school from the age up to 11 years

The childhood of Christ.

2.02 Maths geometry 12.25 Working in the leisure industry 1.48 French for beginners

1.10 Basic business jargon for those who speak another language 1.35 Minding in Scotland 2.00 News and weather 2.02 Thinkabout 2.15 Paul Cole talks to an eskimo at his home on Frobscher Bay.

2.35 Bazaar 11

3.05 News and weather.

3.08 International Snooker. Further coverage of the Ray Reardon/Joe Johnston match.

3.50 Regional news, and weather.

4.00 Pamela Armstrong.

4.30 International Snooker. The final frames of the Ray Reardon/Joe Johnston game.

5.30 Cover to Cover. Jill Nevill and her guests review the latest hardbacks and paperbacks, including Elmore Leonard's Mr Nobody and The Jaguar Smile, Salman Rushdie story of his journey last year to Nicaragua.

6.00 International Snooker. Highlights of the Ray Reardon/Joe Johnston match.

7.00 World Skiing Championships. The Women's Combined Downhill from Crans-Montana.

7.35 Take Nobody's Word For It. A new 'do-it-yourself' science series brought you by Carol Mather and Professor Ian Fells. The first guest is Mrs Thatcher. (see Choice)

8.00 Whistle Test. Andy Kershaw is back to meet the new band Earth; Mark Ellen returns to the reformed Bad Company; and a

6.15 TV-am presented by Mike Morris. Weather at 6.58 and 7.00; sport at 6.59; 6.59-7.00; and exercises at 6.55.

7.00 Good Morning Britain Introduced by Anne Diamond 7.00-7.01: Macclesfield. News at 7.00; 7.50, 8.00, 8.30 and 8.50; cartoon at 7.55; sport at 7.40; pop music at 7.55; and video report at 8.35. The After Nine quiz includes David and Angela Fox and Dr David Delvin who begins a three-part series on childhood ailments.

Thames News headlines:

9.25 9.25-9.30 People make mathematical concepts B.4 Making things move 9.59 Junior Maths: lines 10.16 Schoolchildren rescues the sea in the street 10.33 The social and physical impact of Brookside as an example 11.03 The capabilities of computers 11.22 Children program a computer 11.39 Part two of Jean Anouilh's La Belle Vie

2.00 Button Mouse. Puppet programme (7) 12.10 Aliens. 12.30 Wish You Were Here..(7)

Mon. 12.30 Monday Night programme which included Judith Chatters on a tour of Bordeaux's wine chateau.

1.06 Words at One with Leonard Rossiter. The new series 1.30 A Country Practice. Medical drama set in an Australian outback town.

2.30 On the Market. Susan Brookes and Gordon Smith price on the best fresh food buys. Plus, news of the regional recipe contest. 3.00 Amoebae to Zebras. Nature quiz presented by Nicholas Price. With Peter Stans, Irv Bonford, and Jake Ward. 3.25 Thames news headlines 3.30 Sons and Daughters. Australian family drama.

4.00 Crawley Crannies. Paul Nicholls with the story of You Too Can Have Muscles. 4.10 Beatrix. Cartoon. 4.20 Story of the Yellow Corbett. E.V.E.S. Adventure. A group of children have set up a

Youth Enquiry Service. something which, today, arouses the abhorrence of the police and the mysterious Ma Venable.

5.15 Connections. Sue Robbie presents another round of the quiz game for sixth formers.

5.45 News with Alastair Stewart

6.25 The Late News.

6.25 Hello Mr Taylor. Gagged with community action news.

6.35 Greenroads. Kath and Stephen receive news from the north of Devon.

7.00 That's Your Life. Eamonn Andrews, armed with his big red book, emotionally mugs another unsuspecting viewer.

7.30 The Old Street. Gad Wisley is affected by the former's presence in Weatherfield.

8.00 Sporting Times. Sports coverage presented by Nick Owen.

8.15 Jimmy Greaves. Ted and Sandra Sanderson are joined by Ian St John, Roger Black, Eric Hirst and Willie Thorne.

8.30 High and Dry. Comedy series starring Bernard Cribbins as a man who buys a claudicated pilot. With Richard Wilson and Angus Martin. (Oracle)

9.00 The Equalizer. This week the superb Michael comes to the assistance of a student who is being harassed by a gang of thugs. Starring Edward Woodward. (Oracle)

10.00 A Party Political Broadcast on behalf of the Conservative Party.

10.05 News with Alastair Burnet and Carol Barnes. Weather followed by Thames news introductions.

10.35 Mixed Sport Special introduced by Nick Owen. Boxing from Farnfield Hall, Croydon, where Terry Marsh and Tony McKenzie are on the bill; snooker; badminton; tennis from one of tonight's games. Brian Moore is the commentator.

11.20 That's Hollywood. Stars of screen comedy.

11.45 Night Thoughts.

CHANNEL 4

2.15 **Their Lordships' House.**

2.30 **Film: The Frozen Limits** (1938) starring The Crazy Gang as a farsighted sideshow who, when facing competition from a couple of young girls, decide to seek their fortune in the frozen wastes of Alaska. Directed by Marcel Varnel.

4.00 **Mavis on 4.** Mavis Nicholson makes no secret of having used government funds to start new careers - racing pigeon breeder, Les Harvey, and aviation repainer, Beinda Jane Hyde.

4.30 **Jigsaw.** Quiz game for pairs.

5.00 **Chateaufort.** The French language with English subtitles. One of the features of the French soap opera, shown on Monday, about the rivalry between two families living in the same sleepy Loire town.

6.00 **Marketing.** One of three of the 10-programme series investigating marketing includes an examination of how Bradford was marketed as a tourist centre. (r) (Oracle)

6.30 **Dust and Dreams.** This fourth feature film in the series from the cinema news magazine The March of Time, looking at America's lifestyle between 1935 and 1951, examines the movie industry through the eyes of showman Billy Rose's attempts to put Fort Worth on the map. (Oracle)

7.00 **Channel 4 News** with Peter Sissons and Nicholas Owen.

7.50 **Comment.** This week's political slot is filled by Michael Meacher, Labour MP for Oldham West.

8.00 **Painting Pictures.** Part two and Mr Keating discusses Rembrandt and illustrates his style by painting a composite of two of the master's portraits - of Titus and a self-portrait. (r) (Oracle)

8.30 **Diverse Reports: Private Lives.** Press revelations about private lives. Should they be? Christy Turlington takes it to victims. (r) (Oracle)

VARIATIONS
BBC1 5.35pm-6.00 *Wales Today* 6.35-7.00 *News* 7.10pm-7.30 *12.00m* 7.40pm *Film* 8.17 12.45-12.45 *News SCOTLAND* 10.50pm-11.00 *News* 5.35pm-5.55 *Report* 5.55pm-6.00 *Scouting* 7.35-7.55 *Artic Archives* 7.55-8.00 *Findings* 8.00pm *NORTHERN RELAY* 8.30pm-8.40 *Today's Sport* 8.40-9.00 *In-side Wales* 8.35-7.00 *The Video Picture Show*

BBC2 6.35pm-7.00 *See Here!* 11.40-12.00 *Cee-lee*

ANGLIA As London except:
12.30pm-1.00 *Gamblers for All* 1.30-1.30 *News* 5.15-5.45 *Blockbusters* 6.00-6.35 *About Anglia* 12.30pm *F* is not *Fair*, *Love, Close-up*

BORDER As London except:
12.30pm-1.00 *Face the Public* 1.30-1.30 *News* 3.30-4.00 *Young Doctors* 6.00-6.35 *Lookaround* 12.00pm *Close-up*

CENTRAL As London except:
1.20pm *News* 1.30-1.20 *How* 6.00-6.35 *News* 12.20pm *Jeopardy* 1.30-1.30 *How*

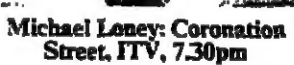
GRANADA As London except:
12.30pm-1.00 *Granada Reports* 1.30-2.30 *Randall & Hopkirk (Deceased)* 2.30-4.00 *Young Doctors* 6.25 *This Is Your Night* 8.30-7.00 *Crossroads* 12.00pm *Close-up*

HTV WEST As London except:
12.30pm-1.00 *Granada Reports* 1.30-2.30 *Randall & Hopkirk (Deceased)* 2.30-4.00 *News* 6.00-6.35 *News* 12.50pm *Close-up*

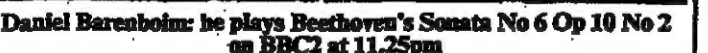
HTV WALES As HTV West except:
6.00pm-6.35 *Wales at Sea*

Michael Loney: Coronation Street, ITV, 7.30pm

TSW As London except:
12.30pm-1.00 *Waters for All* 1.30-1.30 *News* 2.30-3.00 *Monday* 5.15-5.45 *Crossroads* 6.00-6.35 *Today's Sport* 6.35-7.00 *Em*



TSW As London except:
12.30pm-1.00 Gardens for All 1.20-
1.30 News 3.00-3.30 Mary 5.15-5.45 Cross-
roads 6.00 Today South West 6.30-7.00 Em-



A Tunisian nomad: his story is told in Odyssey, Channel 4's new monthly travel magazine (9.00pm)

[illegible]

6.55 Weather. 7.00 News
7.05 Morning Concert
Schubert (Die
Schubert Quartet)
Vienna SO, Rodrigo
(Concerto serenate; Nancy
Simon, harp and RPO)
Chanson (Pomery, 25;
Nigel Kennedy, violin,
with LPO), 8.00 News
8.05 Concert (containing)
Franz Benda (F minor
Concerto in E minor; Ramp
with Ensemble
Theatrical de Paris),
Tomasek (Symphony in
D, op 30; Dvorak Cello, 8.00
News)
9.05 This Week's Composer:
Fauré, Le don silence;
Chanson, Op 94; Vocalise
for the General Soudier,
berlioz, Elie Ameling,
soprano, Dalton Baldwin,
piano, Nene Prades, op
103 Liano-Prades
Collaro, piano, Le jardin
des Op 116 (Armel),
with Redwin and RPO,
Nocturne No 105 in F
sharp minor (Champion, piano)
10.00 Tchaikovsky: Oello PO
under Janssens who plays
the Symphony No 1
10.45 String Duo: Oscar
Shumsky (violin), with
Eric Shumsky (piano).
Duo in C major (Duo in B
major, K 424), and
Alessandro Rolia (Duo
concertante in C major)
11.30 The musical music BBC
Concert Orchestra
(under Ashley Lawrence),
with John Wallace,
piano, and Simon Wright,
piano), Nicolai (Merry
Wives of Windsor overture),
Pantouki (Concerto in
mod antio), Tomlinson
(Boy, Head of the City
Family), Amheil (Sonata for
trumpet and piano), Elgar
(Mina), Reger arrangement
of Wolf (Italian Serenade)
12.00 BBC Concert Orchestra
King'sley Arts presents a
programme of recordings
made by Rex
Biederbecke. 1.00 News
1.05 The Musical Music
Marm (piano), Delussy
(Arabesques; Preludes,
Book 2
2.00 BBC Scottish SO (under
Richard Armstrong).
Janacek (Prelude: Jealousy:
The Fiddler's Chail),
Borodin (Symphony No 2)
1.30 Review
Paul Vaughan, includes
Edward Greenfield's guide to
recordings of the Dvorak
Cello Concerto (in)

Radio 3

4.00 Choral Evensong: from Winchester Cathedral. A live recording. 4.55 News
5.00 Midweek Choral Webber (Pro Musica overture: Dresden State Orchestra), Offenbach (Cello Concerto: Orla Haromy with Cincinnati SO), Lortzing (the overture Der Waffenbruch: RIAS RSO), Mozart (Sonata in D 306: Perlman, violin and Benarducci, piano), Dohna (Suite in F sharp minor: RPO), Ladislav Kupkovic (Souvenir: Kremer, violin, with Vienna SO), Tchaikovsky (Fantasy overture Romeo and Juliet 1869 version: LSO)
7.00 Debate: Penelope Rosell (piano) gives her first Radio 3 recital, playing Mozart's Sonata in C major, K 279, and George Benjamin's Sonatas for City of Birmingham SO (piano Simon Rattle). Part one. Sibetius (Symphony No 6)
8.00 Six Continents: Foreign radio broadcasters monitored by the BBC
8.20 Concert (part two): Mahler (Symphony No 6) and Brahms (Piano Concerto)
9.45 Interview: Penelope Rosell (Malwyn Davies, (tenor, and Iain Leedingham, piano)
10.15 New Presses: the unorchestrated magazine (r)
11.00 Bochmann String Quartet, with Bernard Richter (piano) Mozart (String Quartet in D, K 575), and Schumann's Piano Quartet in E flat, Op 44
11.57 News. 12.00 Closedown



Kingsley Amis on Radio 3
at 12.30pm

Hz/285m/1089kHz/275m: Radio 3
VHF-92 MHz/1152kHz/261m: Radio 4
Service: MF 643RHz/463m

On long line (s) Stereo on VHS
5.55 Shipping 6.00 News
Weather 6.10 Farming
Travel 6.25 Prayer for the
Day (s)
6.30 Today, incl 6.30, 7.30, 8.30
News Summary
6.45 Business News 6.55
7.55 Weather 7.00, 8.00
Today's News 7.25, 8.25
Travel 8.45 Thought for
the Day 8.55 Yesterday's
Parliament
8.57 Weather; Travel
9.00 News
9.05 Midweek, with Libby
Purvis (s)
10.00 News; Gardeners'
Question Time. Experts
answer questions from a
audience at the Malvern
Historical Society.
10.30 Morning Story, by
John Buchan. Reader: Wil-
fred Bride.
10.45 Service (s)
11.00 News; Travel: The
Politics of Song. French-
speaking playwright Michel
Tremblay and director
Andy Jordan discuss
Tremblay's work and life
in Montreal.
11.48 Nadine Wiman, Ned
Lander tackles some of
the queries sent in by
listeners.
12.00 News and Yours.
Consumer affairs with
John Howard.
12.27 Some Mother's Son, Part 3
of John Fletcher's six-part
serial (s) 12.55 Weather
1.00 The World at One: News
1.40 The Archers 1.55
Shipping
2.00 News; Woman's Hour.
Includes an interview
with Kate Mortimer of the
Securities Investment Board.
3.00 News; The Afternoon
Play: Sandra and the
Secret by Rachel Wyatt
Wyn Wesley Sharp (s)
3.47 Time for Verse. Poet
Alex Lyndard on dreams
and nightmares (s)
4.00 News
4.45 Film on 4.
4.45 Kaleidoscope Extra.
Baltic Beat: Tony Palmer
explores the
contemporary music
scene of Estonia, Latvia
and Lithuania, often
overshadowed by their
Soviet neighbours.
5.00 PM. News magazine 5.50
Shipping 5.55 Weather
6.00 The Six O'Clock News.
Financial report.

Radio 4

6.30 The Milligan Papers (new series) Radio's pioneering comic genius reads the airwaves for the start of his own new show.

7.00 News

7.20 The Archers

7.30 Face The Facts. John Wane and his team of investigators tackle injustice, fraud, abuse of power and inept bureaucracy.

7.45 The Cross and the Crescent. A history of the Crusades. Malcolm Gillings presents the second of an eight-part programme exploring the military routes and stopping places of the 11th Century crusades to Jerusalem (s)

8.15 The Long and Winding Road. Car manufacturers intend changing the face of motoring in the next decade. Alan Lewis explores how they plan to do this.

9.00 Thirty Minutes Theatre: A Day at her Time, by Roy Kelly, With Lynn Fareligh and Christopher Ravenscroft in the cast (s) (s)

9.30 Wilted Marzlopp. Serious and not-so-serious poetry by Nigel Ford.

9.45 Kaleidoscope. Topics include The Crescent and the Cross, on Radio 4.

10.15 A Book at Bedtime: The Sun, by Frederick Durrenmatt (s). Read by Gavin Campbell. 10.29 Weather

10.30 The World Tonight

11.15 The Financial World Tonight

11.30 Today in Parliament

12.00 News; Weather 12.33

VHF Shipwrecks available in England and Wales only as above except 5.55-6.00am

Weather: Travel 11.00-12.00 For Schools: 11.00

Singing together (s)

11.30 Junior Drama Workshop (s) 11.40

Reading corner 11.50 Poetry corner 1.55-3.00pm (s)

Reading: 1.55 Looking at Nature: Outside the body (s)

2.20 Listening and reading 2.30 Homes in your Midland Real World

5.55-5.55 PM (continued)

12.30-1.10am Schools

Night-time Broadcasting.

Geography 12.30

Changing World 12.30

Wuhan 12.50

Shenzhen/Shina Tian

Radio 3: 1215kHz/2474m: VHF-90-100kHz: VHF95.8; BBC Radio London:

SPORT

Sheedy's six week injury set-back

Everton, who have lost their last two matches, suffered another major set-back when their Republic of Ireland forward, Kevin Sheedy, had a knee operation on a troublesome cartilage yesterday, which will keep him out of the game for up to six weeks.

The injury comes as a blow: Sheedy was the club's leading scorer, when, last week, they were knocked out of the Littlewoods Cup by Liverpool, then surrendered the chance to go top of the League on Sunday when beaten 1-0 at Nottingham Forest.

City bid fails

Manchester City have failed in their bid to sign Kevin Langley, the Everton midfielder, yesterday. The Merseyside club turned down City's £100,000 offer for the player, who was on the Maine Road short-list before he joined Everton from Wigan Athletic last year. City have also enquired about Richard Hill, of Northampton, and Southend's Richard Cadette.

Milne moves

Dundee United's income from the transfer of players over the past eight months broke the £1 million barrier today, when they sold their wing, Ralph Milne, to Charlton for £125,000. Milne, aged 25, is United's top scorer in their 21 years of European football, with 15 goals. The club also recently sold Richard Gough, to Tottenham, for £750,000.

Portsmouth lottery probe

Police investigating alleged unlawful practices in Portsmouth Football club's lottery yesterday seized a number of documents from the club. The officers of the Gaming Board confiscated the items, including books and other records, from Fratton Park after obtaining a warrant under the Gaming Act of 1968.

Bassett hitch

Wimbledon have rejected an approach by Third Division Brentford for their manager, Dave Bassett. The bid attempt was made by Martin Lange, the Brentford chairman, seeking to replace Frank McLintock, who left Griffin Park last weekend.

Trio of right wings

Three England right wings meet in Saturday's rugby union match between Wasps and Wakefield. The London side, who are unchanged from Saturday's 41-3 John Player Special Cup win against Rugby, field Mark Bailey, the former incumbent, against Mike Harrison, the man who replaced him, as well as Simon Smith, who has also played on the England right.

Chelsea's troubles increase as Dixon requests transfer

By a Special Correspondent

Chelsea received their second setback in 24 hours yesterday when their England forward Kerry Dixon handed the manager John Hollins a written transfer request.

After Chelsea failed to lure Leicester City's Alan Smith to Stamford Bridge, Dixon made it clear that he now wishes to leave the club that he joined from Reading for £175,000 three and a half years ago.

Dixon has struggled to find his scoring touch this season — only eight goals in 29 games — and he was dropped by Hollins from the team that drew with Norwich City at the weekend. His goal drought, coupled with his club's miserable first half of the season, have also taken their toll on Dixon's international place.

After winning his eighth cap in Sweden in September, the

25-year-old has been omitted from the last two national squads to make room for Tony Cottee, West Ham United's leading scorer.

Dixon was keen to stress yesterday that his decision to ask for a move was not done on the spur of the moment.

"It had been in my mind for some time, but I was anxious not to add to the general unrest at the club," he commented as he became the seventh member of the Chelsea first team squad to go on the list.

Dixon's name is added to those of Speedie, Wicks, McLaughlin, Hazard, Francis and Rougic on the transfer list. The club captain, Pates, and Spackman have also expressed a desire to move on.

Both Speedie and

Spackman were relegated to the reserves in October for nine matches each when they asked for a move. It also seems likely now that Dixon could be in for a spell in the second team.

Last Wednesday Dixon was substituted in Chelsea's FA Cup victory over Aston Villa and his central striking role was taken by Durie, a £380,000 summer signing from Hibernian.

Durie scored Chelsea's first goal against Villa and did enough to keep Dixon out of Saturday's line-up.

Dixon has also had his problems off the field. Earlier this season he was fined £2,000 by Hollins for talking to a national newspaper about a dressing room brawl with Speedie.

Rush is Liverpool doubt for replay

Liverpool face a battle to have their forward, Ian Rush, fit for tonight's FA Cup third round second replay against Luton Town. Rush suffered an ankle injury in Monday's goalless replay at Anfield.

The winner of tonight's match will be at home to Queen's Park Rangers in the fourth round on Saturday. If a third replay is needed, it will be at Anfield on Saturday.

Plymouth Argyle's preparations for Saturday's fourth round tie at Arsenal have been hampered by a flu-bug at the club. Three experienced defenders — Leigh Cooper, John Uzzell and Gerry McElhinney — are affected and Plymouth are likely to be reduced to their last 12 full-fit professionals.

Bryan Robson, the England captain, has lost his battle to play in Manchester United's fourth round tie against Coventry. Robson, troubled by a hamstring problem, had planned a run out with the reserves yesterday but said he could still feel the injury.

Millichip is sorry

Bert Millichip, chairman of the Football Association, has offered his "deep apologies" over alleged criticism of the GM Vauxhall Conference and Telford United.

Millichip has been reported as saying that Telford would not be admitted into the Football League on the basis of their ground failing to meet grading criteria.

Further comments by the FA chairman about the venue of the Telford-Leeds FA Cup third round tie gave rise to local allegations of dishonesty at the Conference club. The game was eventually switched to West Bromwich Albion's ground on the FA's orders.

In response to a number of

letters sent by officials of the Conference, Millichip said: "The comments were made purely as a defence of the Football Association. I never intended to offend the Conference nor imply that Telford United wanted anything but to stage the third round tie at their ground. There was never any doubt that Telford wished to play that match at home."

Millichip added: "It is nothing to do with whether the club got into the Football League. I am chairman of the FA. I understand that Telford have received an 'A' grading and that spells out that they have a good ground."

Millichip concluded that comments were intended as criticism of the media coverage.

Wilkinson to delay judgement

By Martin Searby

Howard Wilkinson, the Sheffield Wednesday manager, will wait to see the referee's report on the dismissal of his club's forward, Lee Chapman during Monday night's FA Cup tie before deciding what action to take.

Chapman was sent off by George Courtney two minutes before half-time for retaliating to a challenge by Geraint Williams. Wilkinson, who had to be restrained by colleagues on the touchline, admitted: "My reaction left a lot to be desired. I had to calm myself down during the interval and as it was very much a case of do as I say, not as I do."

Courtney, who has been on the League list for 13 years and is England's senior FIFA referee, had a job throughout as Wednesday players refused to accept his decisions. They clearly thought Derby were getting away with too much and the protests were loud and protracted. But unlike so many of his colleagues, Courtney refused to bend and it was noticeable that both sides calmed down after the interval.

Wilkinson was obviously relieved his team ended a run of six matches without a win and later waxed almost lyrical about the victory. "They were," he said, "virtually a corpse crawling along in the desert, with the vultures gathering when suddenly we got up, fought back and started enjoying the sunshine."

Wednesday now visit Chester City in the fourth round after Bradshaw's only goal maintained an extraordinary record of not them losing a cup tie at Hillsborough since 1973.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

New Jersey putting on the style for Giants

East Rutherford, New Jersey (AP) — About 10,000 people were gathered in a frosty Giants Stadium yesterday to greet the New York Giants with confetti and celebrate their first national football championship in three decades.

They started to gather at dawn, lighting bonfires and cooking breakfast as they prepared to welcome the team home after the 39-20 victory over the Denver Broncos in Super Bowl XXII. Governor Thomas Kean of New Jersey planned to present the players with commemorative gold medallions.

Joe Piscopo, a comedian who is a native of New Jersey, kicked off the stadium festivities when he invoked the name of the New York Giants. Then he paused, and said:

"It's the New Jersey Giants. I was just testing you."

Denver held its homecoming festivities on Monday. About 100,000 cheering fans packed the city centre for a ticker-tape parade and rally to assure the Broncos that they are still No. 1 at home.

The Giants crowd, dressed in scarves, hats and jackets, sporting the Giants' red and blue in 13deg F (minus-10C) weather, watched extracts from the game on the stadium's two electronic scoreboards.

"The cold is no problem because the Giants won the Super Bowl," said one 13-year-old, Catherine Leonard. Her uncle, Bob Leonard, of Montville, stood in 4 inches of snow on the tarpaulin-covered field and said: "I'm going to keep warm by doing a lot of cheering and a lot of yelling."

CRICKET

County signings talks

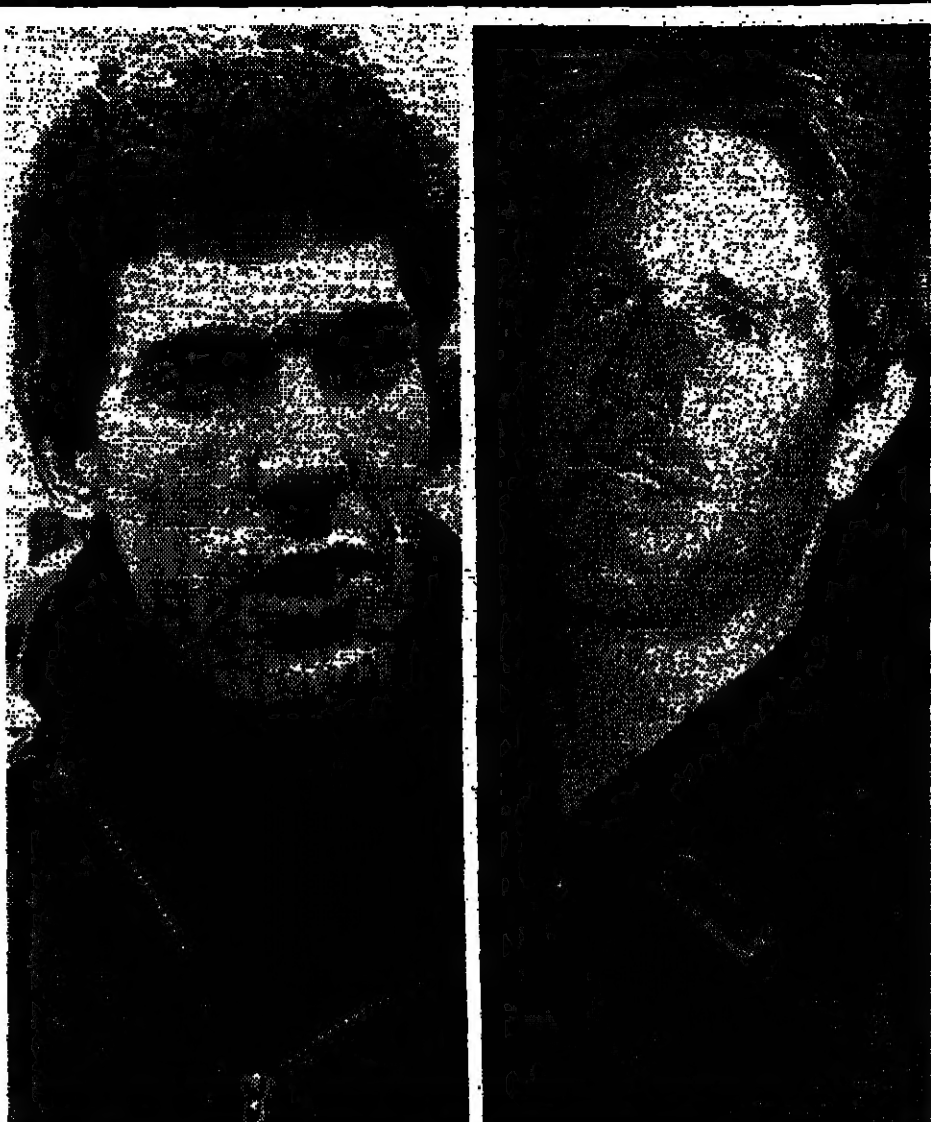
By a Special Correspondent

The Test and County Cricket Board have taken the first steps towards controlling the growing movement of players between counties since the end of last season, and that total seems set to increase before this summer's first ball is bowled.

Graham Dilley, of Kent, has still to decide his future, and Essex are favourites to tempt Monte Lynch away from Surrey now that his contract has expired.

All this, together with the decision of more than one county to register two overseas players even though they can only play one, is likely to be debated in even more detail in the weeks to come.

More cricket page 37



At the stern's centre: Oxford president, Donald Macdonald, and (right) Chris Clark.

President offers to quit in Oxford Boat Race crisis

By Jim Railton

In an attempt to get the potential Oxford University Boat Race crew back into training, and end a dispute over selection, Oxford's president, Donald Macdonald, aged 31, has offered to stand down from the crew and act as executive president. This is the first attempt at a compromise in a crisis which yesterday kept Oxford off the river at Marlow for the second successive day.

But while Macdonald is willing to make his sacrifice, he is also demanding that the man whom he was to have replaced in the squad — the American and Oxford Blue, Chris Clark — is dropped from the squad.

Clark refused suggestions that the rebellion amongst the crew was being led by Americans. He said: "It just happens there are Americans involved. There is nothing that should indicate that it is US incited or led. This involves the entire crew no

matter what nationality we are.

"It is the culmination of a few years of frictions. It appears to be a battle between the establishment and us, but it's not. We are just seeking compromise."

Macdonald said yesterday evening: "The decision stands which was taken by the coaches and myself on Sunday (to prefer Macdonald to Clark). We met with the crew on Monday in Oxford and no additional evidence came forward which had not been aired on Sunday and an overwhelming majority of the Oxford coaches considered Clark unsuitable for the squad."

Macdonald went on to imply that Sunday's decision after an almost five hour meeting was democratic. "It must stand as nothing new has emerged."

Macdonald is suggesting that Paul Gleeson, who is striking Oxford's reserve crew, Isis, should row in his place. This will, however, depend on Gleeson's agreement and the remainder of the proposed Oxford crew electing to row. "If not, I must pick what crew I can," he said.

Macdonald is keen to get Oxford back on the water since the Boat Race is scheduled for March 28. He thinks that by making the gesture he can solve the problem and maintain the integrity of the Oxford University Boat Club.

This was relayed to the Oxford crew last night and Macdonald was awaiting their decision. It is one way forward but leading Oxford oarsmen may not wish to sacrifice the American in which case the crisis will continue.

Earlier, the Oxford oarsmen had gathered in Oriel Square where they were due to meet Macdonald. But the president arrived late — by which time the oarsmen had elected to lift weights and row on ergometers at the University's Sports Centre in Iffley Road.

ATHLETICS

Passport poser for Williams

By Pat Batchelor, Athletics Correspondent

Barrington Williams had a few more surprises yesterday for the British selectors who had picked him for next week's meeting in Hungary, following his AAA long jump title in only his second indoor competition last Saturday.

Williams was already something of a curiosity in that he is unbeaten in club and county competition in the 100 metres and long jump for 12 years, and becomes Britain's oldest track and field debutant at 31. But it transpired yesterday that Williams has neither a passport nor the intention of competing on Sunday, when the long jump is scheduled, since he is a devout Christian.

The British Board have had events changed in international in the past for similar cases, notably hurdler Blondelle Thompson — of

Birmingham Harriers in the early 1970s, and officials feel that there will be little problem in getting the long jump changed to Saturday in order to accommodate Williams.

But the passport might be a little more problematic. Although Williams has lived in Britain for 24 years, as his North Midlands accent testifies, he was born in Jamaica, and cheerfully admitted yesterday: "I've never applied for a passport, because I hate aeroplanes and never imagined I'd be leaving the country for anything."

The quickest way to solve the problem is for Williams to get a Jamaican passport and then visa, in order to leave with the team a week Friday, and Board officials are contacting the Jamaican Embassy to do just that.

Williams is a Pentecostal Sunday school teacher, and said yesterday: "I don't compete on Sunday, because I try and obey the scriptures. That's also why I've never really pushed myself in competition, because I've never taken athletics that seriously. It's nice to get the selection, I'm really surprised but I don't think I'm really going anywhere at my age."

If the passport and programming problems are overcome, Williams is certainly going to Budapest. But Adrian Passey, another surprise winner at Cosford on Saturday has turned down his Budapest invitation for the 3000 metres, because of family commitments. But Passey, 22, has also been selected for the European indoor championships.

More athletics, page 35.

SPORT IN BRIEF

McNamee bows out

Sydney, (Reuters) — Paul McNamee, who has played in two triumphant Australian Davis Cup teams, yesterday announced his retirement from the competition.

McNamee, aged 32, who is better known as a doubles player with Peter McNamara with whom he twice won Wimbledon, made his decision after watching his compatriot, Wally Masur beat Boris Becker in the Australian Open in Melbourne two weeks ago. "I feel the young guys are now ready to take the job and by standing down I'm not letting the team down in any way," said McNamee, who will continue on the international circuit full-time.

In the swim

Hewlett Packard, the computer company, have extended their sponsorship of English swimming until the end of 1988. The deal, announced yesterday, will be worth £50,000 a year to the Amateur Swimming Association and the English Schools Swimming Association.

Edberg loses

Los Angeles, (Reuters) — John McEnroe took advantage of Stefan Edberg's third set errors and fatigue brought on by a 13-hour flight from Australia to record a 6-4, 4-6, 6-1 victory in an exhibition match over the Swede, who had retained his Australian Open title only three days before. In an earlier match, Vitas Gerulaitis defeated Ilie Nastase 6-4, 6-2.

Coach named

Trafford Metros (Manchester), the first division ice hockey team, yesterday named Jim McGarrigle, from Sheffield, as coach following the decision of their Canadian player, Brian Sims to relinquish his coaching duties.

Thorpe honour

David Thorpe, the world 500cc motocross champion, who is Britain's only motorcycle world champion, was the guest of honour in Birmingham yesterday at the annual awards presentation of the Auto Cycle Union, motorcycling's governing body in Britain.

CCPR's plea

The Central Council of Physical Recreation has urged town halls to follow Scotland's lead and cut the rates bill for local sports clubs. Strathclyde Regional Council, the biggest local authority in the United Kingdom, has introduced immediate 50 per cent rate relief for all amateur clubs and associations, saving them a total of £1m a year.

Coach named

Peter Lawson, general secretary of the CCPR which has campaigned for reductions, said: "We hope that local councils throughout Britain will follow suit and release sports clubs from the burden of punitive and unfair taxation."

Coach named

An impressive launch of the comprehensive coaching course, staged at Aston Villa Sports and Leisure Centre, prompted the attendance of many leading figures from the FA, the Football League, the police and the schools. Mr Richard Tracey, the Minister for Sport, read a letter of enthusiastic support from the Prime Minister.

The right way to win by Robson

Team managers and parents of young players who over-emphasize the will to win were yesterday blamed by the England manager, Bobby Robson, for many of the game's ills during the FA's launch of a nationwide football coaching programme.

In a campaign to establish a thousand coaching centres for the 8 to 14 age group — which the FA have described as the most visionary initiative that they have undertaken — it is hoped that the right kind of interest in the game will be developed at the earliest possible age.

The objects of the FA's programme, which is sponsored by General Motors, are to raise the level of individual skills, make a positive contribution to the battle against hooliganism, and to provide the opportunity for girls as well as boys to become involved in the game. Youngsters attending the coaching centres, which will be staffed by qualified coaches, will be taught basic ball skills and how to enjoy the game at all levels while respecting opponents and referees.

Robson said: "It seems me that so many team managers do not understand the real meaning of competitiveness or the will to win. Be competitive and playing win does not mean cheating or doing it means kicking opponents rather than the ball, or arguing with the referee."

"Unfortunately a large number of our youngsters are being influenced by very well-intentioned but, in a sense, misguided team managers. In some cases the criticism has to be extended to parents."

"Where I believe some team managers are misguided is their attitude to winning. We all want to win and we must encourage youngsters to play to win. To have a really enjoyable contest it is necessary. There is however, a price which is too high to pay. That price is when the prize becomes more important than the game itself."

Concern was expressed that the age of eight was too young for coaching but Robson insisted that good coaching was beneficial at any age. "You have to start somewhere. The kind of coaching eight-year-olds receive is very low key. They learn the basics and are encouraged to have fun and try any individual skills they wish. Only bad coaching ruins young players," he said.

Quintessential education

The England manager offered five detailed areas of advice for team managers and though these were clearly directed at those in charge of young players they could be profitably studied by more senior colleagues.

1) Do not shout abuse at players or referee. In most cases this is an indication that the manager has lost control, one sign of poor management. 2) All criticism and observation should be left until half-time, the end of the match or the next training session. 3) Any criticism should lead on to positive advice, namely 'do this' rather than 'don't do that'. 4) In issuing criticism and instructions the calmer, the manager the greater his influence. Managers (like teachers) who rant and rave are regarded as sources of free entertainment but not good for getting results. 5) It is easier to renege than to walk away when an opponent has kicked you. It is tempting but not profitable to argue with the referee. Self-discipline is best taught by example. If the team manager cannot show that example what chance do his players have? Robson appealed to all coaches and managers throughout the game no matter how humble their team to join him "in the crusade."

The coaching centres will teach, among other things, a code of behaviour which includes not arguing with referees. The England captain, Bryan Robson, was asked whether these lessons should now be taught to senior pros. "In 90 minutes of football there will always be players who get hot-headed. Most, though I think professional are trying much harder to control themselves," he said.

A cheque for £25,000 was presented to the police by the FA for their co-operation in football crowd control.

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